



MINUTES

**Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting
Thursday, 1 May 2025**

Order of Business

1	Opening Karakia	3
2	Apologies	3
3	Confirmation of minutes.....	3
4.1	Minutes of the Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting held on 10 April 2025.....	3
4	Declaration of conflicts of interest	4
5	Business.....	4
5.1	Objection to Disqualification as Dog owner - Lupe Poe	4
5.2	Objection to Retention of Dog in Pound - Miriama Te Wheoro	4
5.3	Jesse Hartley - Objection to Disqualification as Dog owner	5
6	Public excluded session puhī and terri.....	5
6.1	Public Excluded Minutes of the Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting held on 10 April 2025.....	5
5	public session continued.....	7
5.1	Objection to Disqualification as Dog owner - Lupe Poe	7
5.2	Objection to Retention of Dog in Pound - Miriama Te Wheoro	7
5.2	Objection to Retention of Dog in Pound – Jesse Hartely	7
7	Closing Karakia.....	8

**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
REGULATORY HEARINGS PANEL MEETING
HELD AT THE GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 1, 306 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA
ON THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025 AT 9:00 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs Mary Dillon (Chairperson), Mr Puhirake Ihaka, Mr Terry Molloy

APOLOGIES: Mr Alan Tate

IN ATTENDANCE: Brent Lincoln (Team Leader: Animal Services) and Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor)

EXTERNAL: Applicants as listed in the minutes.

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Mr Puhirake Ihaka opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RHP/25/0/1

Moved: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

Seconded: Mr Terry Molloy

That the apology for absence received from Mr Alan Tate be accepted.

CARRIED

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting held on 10 April 2025

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RHP/25/0/2

Moved: Mrs Mary Dillon

Seconded: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

That the Minutes of the Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting held on 10 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

4 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 BUSINESS

5.1 Objection to Disqualification as Dog owner - Lupe Poe

Staff Brent Lincoln

Key Points

- Due to Ms Poe not attending the hearing, the panel unanimously decided to address the matter on the papers.
- The Team Leader: Animal Services provided the panel with a summary of his report and the purpose for hearing the matter.

In response to questions

- The Team Leader: Animal Services confirmed the dog in question was a Shar Pei cross, that complaints about the dog had started a long time ago and there had been night time barking since March 2024. He also advised that the current disqualification expired in August 2027 and could not be extended.

5.2 Objection to Retention of Dog in Pound - Miriama Te Wheoro

Staff Brent Lincoln

External Ms Miriana Te Wheoro

Key Points

- The Team Leader: Animal Services provided the panel with a summary of his report and the purpose for hearing the matter about Ms Te Wheoro's dog Kola.

In response to questions

- Ms Te Wheoro confirmed that she had found the dog as a puppy, badly injured after being attacked by other dogs.
- Ms Te Wheoro advised that her mokopuna left the gate open at her property which allowed the dog Kola to get out. It could also jump fences.
- The Team Leader: Animal Services advised if the dog had been socialised at an earlier age it may have been able to be better socialised with other dogs. The dog was now six years old and attacking other dogs was ingrained behaviour.
- The Team Leader: Animal Services acknowledged it was a sad situation and that it was unfortunate that the dog Kola had imprinted aggression towards other dogs. He advised the prosecution was going ahead and that the dog had been put in the pound in March 2025

Discussion points raised

- Chair Mary Dillon clarified that the only purpose of today's hearing was for the panel to decide if the dog could be released from the pound.

5.3 Jesse Hartley - Objection to Disqualification as Dog owner

Staff Brent Lincoln

External Jesse Hartley and Shannon Dunford

Key Points

- The Team Leader: Animal Services provided the panel with a summary of his report and the purpose for hearing the matter about Mr Hartley's dog, Tuff Cookie. He advised that a dog may remain with its owner when a disqualification had been given and the matter had been disputed.

In response to questions

- Mr Hartley told the panel that his dog had only been in the pound once, and that he had bought a muzzle and his property was now properly fenced. He provided the panel with photos of this.

Discussion points raised

- The Team Leader: Animal Services advised that the dog had been classified as menacing after attacking a neighbour and provided the panel with an explanation as to the process involved to classify a dog as menacing.

At 11.31am the meeting adjourned.

At 11.40am the meeting reconvened.

6 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION PUHI AND TERRI

Resolution to exclude the public

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RHP/25/0/3

Moved: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

Seconded: Mr Terry Molloy

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
6.1 - Public Excluded Minutes of the Regulatory Hearings Panel meeting held on 10 April 2025	s7(2)(a) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural	s48(1)(a) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

	persons	
5.1 – Lupe Poe - Objection to disqualification as dog owner deliberations	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.
5.2 – Miriama Te Wheoro – Objection to retention of dog in pound deliberations	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.
5.3 – Jesse Hartley – Objection to disqualification as dog owner deliberations	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

5 PUBLIC SESSION CONTINUED

5.1 Objection to Disqualification as Dog owner - Lupe Poe

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION RHP/25/0/4

Moved: Mr Puhirake Ihaka

Seconded: Mr Terry Molloy

That the Regulatory Hearings Panel:

- (a) Receives the report "Objection to Disqualification as Dog owner - Lupe Poe".
- (b) Agrees to:
 - (i) Uphold the disqualification.

CARRIED

5.2 Objection to Retention of Dog in Pound - Miriama Te Wheoro

RECOMMENDATIONS MOVE

SECOND

That the Regulatory Hearings Panel:

- (a) Receives the report "Objection to Retention of Dog in Pound - Miriama Te Wheoro".
- (b) Agrees to:
 - (ii) Retain the dog Kola in the pound.

The Panel noted that Ms Te Wheoro was not a disqualified dog owner which gave her the opportunity to acquire another dog.

5.2 Objection to Retention of Dog in Pound – Jesse Hartely

RECOMMENDATIONS MOVE

TERRY

SECOND PUHI

That the Regulatory Hearings Panel:

- (a) Receives the report "Objection to Disqualification as Dog owner– Jesse Hartely".
- (b) Agrees to:
 - (iii) Terminate the disqualification.

The Panel noted there had been no further infringements with his dog Tough Cookie over the last six months and that Mr Hartley now appeared to have understood his responsibilities and obligations as a dog owner.

At 11.54am, Mr Terry Molloy withdrew from the meeting.

7 CLOSING KARAKIA

Mr Puhirake Ihaka closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 11.57.

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

.....
Mary Dillon
CHAIRPERSON