



MINUTES

**Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group
meeting**

Wednesday, 3 September 2025

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
WAIĀRI KAITIAKI ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEVEL 1 - 90 DEVONPORT ROAD,
TAURANGA
ON WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 9.30AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms Darlene Dinsdale (Chair), Hautapu Baker, Cr Steve Morris, Mr Manu Pene, Mr Maru Tapsell, Mayor James Denyer (WBoPDC), Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour (WBoPDC)

IN ATTENDANCE: Stacey Mareroa-Roberts (Manager: Strategic Maori Engagement), Keren Paekau (Team Leader: Takawaenga Māori), Yolande Tipuna (Kaiārahi Maori), Wally Potts (Head of City Waters), Peter Bahrs (Manager: Water Services), Jennifer Pearson (Community Engagement Advisor: Infrastructure Delivery), Rueben Fraser (Consent Manager, BoP Regional Council), Chris Nepia (WBOPDC), Mokoera Te Amo (WBOPDC), Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor)

EXTERNAL: Te Kapu o Waitaha - Watana Williams, Rob Peake, Ray Wihapi, Luke Whare, Noel Mahia

TIMESTAMPS ARE INCLUDED BESIDE EACH OF THE ITEMS AND RELATE TO THE RECORDING OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 SEPTEMBER ON [COUNCIL'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#). PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE TWO PARTS TO THE LIVESTREAM.

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Mr Mokoera Te Amo opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/25/3/1

Moved: Cr Hautapu Baker

Seconded: Cr Steve Morris

That the apology for absence received from Ms Helen Biel be accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

TIMESTAMP: 4:15 – Part 1 of livestream

3.1 Te Kapu o Waitaha

External Watana Williams, Rob Peake & Ray Wihapi – Te Kapu o Waitaha

Key Points

The presenters:

- Described their deep ancestral connection to the Waiāri River, tracing back 25 generations, and highlighted the importance of integrating cultural knowledge and practices into river monitoring alongside scientific methods.
- Outlined their qualifications, including ongoing studies in environmental science, and detailed their experience with field sampling, macroinvertebrate indexing, and cultural health indexes, demonstrating their readiness to undertake comprehensive monitoring.
- Proposed a partnership model and collaboration which included a hub-based model for collaboration with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, aiming to combine resources and expertise from Waitaha, Tapuika, and Council staff to enhance the effectiveness and cultural relevance of monitoring activities.

4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN

Nil

6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**7.1 Minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 11 June 2025****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/25/3/2**

Moved: Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour

Seconded: Cr Hautapu Baker

That the Minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 11 June 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 BUSINESS

TIMESTAMP: 31:15 – Part 1 of livestream

9.1 Waiari Operational Report 3 September 2025

Staff Peter Bahrs, Manager: Water Services
Wally Potts, Head of City Waters

Key Points

- The ecological monitoring report noted residual effects from significant flooding events in 2023, including damage to riparian planting and stream banks, with recovery still ongoing and influencing ecological conditions.
- A history of ecological surveys was provided, showing that monitoring had been conducted both before and after the water treatment plant came online, with results varying due to natural events such as rainfall and land runoff.
- The cost of annual ecological surveys was discussed (approximately \$25,000 per year), with questions raised about the practical benefits of continued monitoring beyond consent requirements, especially in light of financial constraints.

In response to questions

- The group agreed to continue ecological surveys beyond consent requirements and to align monitoring efforts with Waitaha and Tapuika, amending the motion to reflect collaborative planning and implementation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Hautapu Baker

Seconded: Mr Maru Tapsell

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiari Operational Report 3 September 2025".
- (b) Provides feedback or comment on report, as needed.
- (c) Consider the need to continue with ecological surveys in addition to the consent requirements.

An Amendment was proposed to resolution (c):

- (c) Supports the need to continue with ecological surveys in addition to the consent requirements and requests staff partners with Tapuika and Waitaha to align and implement the monitoring plan.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/25/3/3

Moved: Cr Hautapu Baker

Seconded: Mr Maru Tapsell

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiari Operational Report 3 September 2025".
- (b) Provides feedback or comment on report, as needed.
- (c) Supports the need to continue with ecological surveys in addition to the consent requirements and requests staff partners with Tapuika and Waitaha to align and implement the monitoring plan.

CARRIED

TIMESTAMP: 1:50 – Part 2 of livestream

9.2 Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group Cultural Recognition Update September 2025

Staff Jennifer Pearson, Community Engagement Advisor: Infrastructure Delivery

Key Points

- Staff provided updates on cultural recognition projects, including the commissioning of cultural artworks, regeneration programmes, and plans to improve river access and safety, with input from Western Bay and Regional Council staff.
- A contract was sent to Toi Takapu to create the first cultural recognition artwork near the Waiāri plant, with the operations group reviewing the agreement and work expected to begin following approval.
- Desktop studies and consultations were underway to identify potential sites for environmental regeneration along the stream, with challenges related to access through private land being addressed in collaboration with landowners

- Plans included temporary dredging near the bridge to enable safe swimming and diving, and the development of a walkway under the bridge to provide safe pedestrian access, with concept designs presented and timeframes discussed.
- The earliest expected completion for river access improvements, including the walkway and bridge enhancements, was next summer, with ongoing coordination among contractors, Council staff, and community representatives.
- In Tauranga City, marae received a two-thirds remission on wastewater charges but paid the full amount for water supply, with practices differing between Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty.

In response to questions

- Questions were raised about concessions for marae providing essential social services, with staff noting the need to understand the full range of uses and to develop policy recommendations based on comprehensive data.
- Staff acknowledged that tangata whenua had not been remunerated for attending operations meetings over the past year and committed to reviewing attendance records and discussing appropriate compensation with management.

Actions

- That staff prepare and present a report detailing water use and remission policies for marae in both Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty, including a breakdown for Waitaha and Tapuika, to inform future discussions on water allocation and concessions.
- That staff assess and propose a solution for remunerating tangata whenua for attendance at Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group Operations meetings.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/25/3/4

Moved: Mayor James Denyer

Seconded: Mr Manu Pene

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group Cultural Recognition Update September 2025".

CARRIED

10 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

The Chair thanked Mayor James Denyer and Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour and wished them well in the upcoming Local Elections.

11 CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Hautapu Baker closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 11:00am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 26 November 2025.

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Ms Darlene Dinsdale
CHAIR