



DRAFT MINUTES

**Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group
meeting**

Wednesday, 11 March 2026

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
WAIĀRI KAITIAKI ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, L1, 90 DEVONPORT ROAD,
TAURANGA
ON WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2026 AT 9:30 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cr Hautapu Baker (Chair), Cr Darlene Dinsdale (WBoPDC), Cr Steve Morris, Mr Manu Pene, Cr Laura Rae (WBoPDC), Mr Luke Whare, Mr Hakopa Tapiata, Hanita Dinsdale (online) and Cr Hēmi Rolleston.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE Cr Rod Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Bahrs (Manager: Water Services), Jennifer Pearson (Community Engagement Advisor: Infrastructure Delivery), Wally Potts (Head of City Waters), Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor),

Externals Rueben Fraser (Consent Manager, BoP Regional Council), Peter Parker (Western Bay of Plenty District Council)

Timestamps are included beside each of the items and relate to the recording of the meeting held on 11 March 2026 on [Council's You Tube Channel](#).

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Cr Hautapu Baker opened the meeting with a karakia.

Member Luke Whare, Member Hanita Dinsdale and Western Bay of Plenty District Council Councillor Laura Rae introduced themselves to the Committee.

2 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/1

Moved: Cr Darlene Dinsdale
Seconded: Cr Laura Rae

That the apology for absence received from Member Helen Biel, Member Travis Moke and Member Rob Peake be accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

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 3 September 2025

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/2

Moved: Cr Steve Morris

Seconded: Ms Darlene Dinsdale

That the Minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 3 September 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 BUSINESS

Timestamp: 12 minutes and 30 seconds

9.1 Appointment of Co-Chair to the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group

Staff Sarah Holmes, Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services

- The Governance Advisor corrected an error in the report and reiterated that a Council representative was to be approved by Council and an iwi/hapū representative was to be endorsed by Council.
- The Committee decided to have a shared co-chair role: Luke Whare was proposed as Iwi/Hapu Co-Chair, with Helen Beale as alternate.

Nominations:

- WBOPDC Councillor Laura Rae nominated WBOPDC Councillor Darlene Dinsdale as consent holder Co-chair.
- WBOPDC Councillor Darlene Dinsdale nominated Luke Whare (Te Kapu o Waitaha) as

iwi/hapū Co-chair.

- Member Helen Biel (Tapuika Iwi Authority) was nominated as alternate for iwi/hapū Co-chair.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/3

Moved: Cr Laura Rae

Seconded: Cr Steve Morris

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Appointment of Co-Chair to the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group".
- (b) Recommends to Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council that Luke Whare be appointed as the iwi/hapū representative Co-chair of Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group.
and
- (c) Recommends to Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council that Western Bay of Plenty District Council Councillor Darlene Dinsdale be appointed as the consent holder representative Co-chair of Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group.

CARRIED

Timestamp: 19 minutes and 15 seconds

9.2 Waiāri Operational Report

Staff Peter Bahrs, Manager: Water Services

The Manager: Water Services spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (attached) and provided the following points:

- Updates on stream flows, rainfall events, and ecological monitoring, and explained recent stream flow trends, the impact of rainfall, and the abstraction rates compared to consented limits.
- An outline of the steps for integrating iwi partnership into ecological monitoring, focusing on consent requirements and future educational interventions. This was being scoped and would be shared with iwi reps for collaboration.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/4

Moved: Ms Darlene Dinsdale

Seconded: Mr Manu Pene

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiāri Operational Report" 11 March 2026.
- (b) Provides feedback or comment on report, as needed.

CARRIED

Attachments

- 1 Waiāri Operation Report Presentation 11 March 2026

Timestamp: 31 minutes and 50 seconds

9.3 Waiāri Cultural Recognition Update - March 2026

Staff Dean Flavell, Pou Ārahi

Mr Dean Flavell spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (attached) providing the following information:

- The process and challenges of developing three significant artworks (pou) along the Waiāri, including historical and cultural context.
- Personal and community stories about the river, its significance, and the intended meaning of the artworks.
- The first pou would be placed at Ngaingainui, marking a sacred spring, with others planned for different locations.
- Confirmed that whanau and hapu accessibility to pou would be part of the brief and that continued collaboration between the parties was important.

Action Requested:

- That iwi representatives meet to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding before any staff involvement.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/5

Moved: Cr Steve Morris

Seconded: Ms Darlene Dinsdale

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report " Waiāri Cultural Recognition Update - March 2026".
- (b) Accept the design concept put forward by Toi Takapuu for the cultural recognition artwork and approve moving forward to the next stage of the design and construction process.

CARRIED

Attachments

- 1 Waiāri Cultural Recognition Update Presentation

Timestamp: 52 minutes and 31 seconds

9.4 Water Usage for Maraes within the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council Rohe

Staff Wally Potts, Head of City Waters
Jennifer Pearson, Community Engagement Advisor: Infrastructure Delivery

The Head of City Waters and the Community Engagement Advisor: Infrastructure Delivery spoke to the report, and the following items were discussed with the Committee:

- It was confirmed that Tauranga City Council remitted wastewater charges only for marae, while Western Bay of Plenty District Council remitted water but not wastewater.
- There was a need for consistent remission policies, with an emphasis on the negligible

proportion of total water used by Marae and the cultural significance of providing water without charge.

- The purpose of Cultural Recognition 7 was discussed. It was clarified it required quantifying marae water usage as a percentage of the total take, not just a discussion of rates or revenue. Clear and more detailed reporting was needed to inform future decisions.
- It was agreed this was an urgent matter in terms of what needed to be achieved before the waters entity transition.

Actions Requested:

- That the Head of City Waters and the Community Engagement Advisor: Infrastructure Delivery provide a report on marae water usage as a percentage of total take and support the development of a strong, timely recommendation for full water charge remission.
- That Councillor Darlene Dinsdale coordinate the establishment of a working group (with tangata whenua, elected members, and staff) to draft a Memorandum of Understanding for Cultural Recognition 7 and report back at the next meeting.

At 11.15am the meeting adjourned.

At 11.55am the meeting resumed in open.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/6

Moved: Ms Darlene Dinsdale

Seconded: Mr Manu Pene

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report Water Usage for Maraes within the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council Rohe
- (b) Establish a working group with tangata whenua of Waiāri elected members, and staff to investigate, develop and draft an MOU to recognise and implement cultural recognition # 7. To be reported back to the next Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting.
- (c) That tangata whenua members support and recommend to councils that they remit all water charges for marae across both districts through the Annual Plan process 26/27 and any other appropriate process.

CARRIED

10 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

11 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Nil

12 CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Hautapu Baker closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 11.42.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 10 June 2026