



DRAFT MINUTES

**Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group
meeting**

Wednesday, 10 June 2026

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
WAIARI KAITIAKI ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE MOKO MARAE, 1332 TE PUKE HIGHWAY, TE PUKE
ON WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026 AT 9:30 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Luke Whare, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Laura Rae, Mr Manu Pene, Mr Travis Moke, Mr Hakopa Tapiata.

IN ATTENDANCE: **TCC:**
Reneke van Soest (General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure), Wally Potts (Head of City Waters), Jennifer Pearson (Asset Delivery), Peter Bahrs (Manager: Water Services), Keren Paekau (Acting Head of Strategic Engagement, Yolande Tipuna (Kaiārahi Māori), Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor),

WBOPDC:
Brad Singh, Chris Nepia, Mokoera Te Amo

Tangata Whenua:
Mrs Ngaire Dinsdale, Mrs Julie Te Amo, Mr Rob Peake, Mr Watana Williams.

Timestamps are included at the start of each item and signal where the agenda item can be found in the recording of the meeting held on 10 June 2026 at [Tauranga City Council YouTube Channel](#).

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Koro Manu Pene opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/1

Moved: Mr Manu Pene
Seconded: Cr Laura Rae

That the apology for absence received from Cr Darlene Dinsdale, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Hēmi Rolleston and Ms Helen Biel 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

Timestamp: 4 minutes

7.1 Minutes of the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 11 March 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/2

Moved: Cr Laura Rae

Seconded: Cr Steve Morris

That the Minutes of the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 11 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Timestamp: 5 minutes

7.2 Clarity from 11 March 2026 meeting Item 9.4 - Water Usage for Marae within the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council Rohe resolution WA/26/0/6 (c)

Staff Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

Key Points

- Staff outlined that the Water Services Organisation would assume ownership of all assets, operations, and finances related to water supply, wastewater, and stormwater, including consents, effective 1 July 2027. Councils would no longer derive income from water or charge for water services after this date.
- The transition period would last approximately 12-15 months, during which a CEO and a transition team were working on the structure, governance, and operational processes for the new organisation, including how existing committees would provide advice and transition into the new structure.
- Noted that governance structures, including the integration of advisory committees and the role of tangata whenua, were still being developed, with the first joint committee meeting

scheduled for 19 June and a board expected by October 2026.

- There was ongoing uncertainty about the exact processes and pathways for committee recommendations and cultural recognition initiatives, but staff were available to help the group navigate both council and Water Services Organisation channels as needed.
- The group debated whether Cultural Recognition seven should apply to all marae, only those in the Waiari catchment, or specifically to marae with a direct connection to Waiari water. Staff emphasised the need for clarity on this point, as it determined the appropriate pathway for recommendations and engagement with councils and the Water Services Organisation.
- The group can recommend free water for marae to their respective councils without needing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and such recommendations could be for a one-year or permanent rebate. However, after July 2027, water-related decisions and costs will fall under the Water Services Organisation, making it potentially more effective to engage directly with the new entity.
- It was clarified that after the transition, councils would no longer receive income from water, and any rebates or free water provisions would need to be reimbursed by councils until the Water Services Organisation takes over. The group discussed the likelihood of success and administrative simplicity of different pathways.
- There was uncertainty about the original objective of the MOU and its fit within the current process, noting that a relationship agreement will eventually be established by the Water Services Organisation as part of its governance and consent responsibilities.
- The group decided to pause any staff work on the MOU until Councillor Dinsdale, who has been a key advocate for the MOU, can be present to provide input and clarification at a future meeting.
- It was agreed that the principle of reciprocity, which underpins the MOU, should be the focus of a subcommittee or working group rather than staff, and that this should be clearly signalled in meeting records.

Actions Requested

- That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group provide clarity on which marae were included in the recommendation, with staff to distribute a draft paper and seek input via email. The resolution will be interpreted as recommending free water for all marae in the Waiari catchment, with staff pausing work on the MOU until further clarification was obtained.
- Draft and distribute the issues and options paper to respective councils recommending free water for all Marae in the Waiari catchment and those within TCC impacted by the original water take, ensuring clarity on which Marae were included.

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 BUSINESS

Timestamp: 53 minutes

9.1 Status Updates on Actions from prior Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meetings

Staff Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/3

Moved: Cr Steve Morris

Seconded: Mr Manu Pene

That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Status Updates on Actions from prior Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meetings".

CARRIED

Timestamp: 55 minutes

9.2 Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group Cultural Recognition Update May 2026

Staff Jennifer Pearson, Asset Delivery

Ms Pearson spoke to a PowerPoint Presentation (attached) and noted the following.

Key Points

- Staff noted the site meetings for the placement of cultural art at the water plant entrance, the development of interpretation panels, and the creation of video footage documenting the Waiari Stream's story, with community and consultant involvement.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/4

Moved: Cr Laura Rae

Seconded: Mr Travis Moke

That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group Cultural Recognition Update May 2026".

CARRIED

Attachments

- 1 Presentation - 9.2 - Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group hui 10 June 2026

Timestamp: 1 hour and 6 minutes

9.3 Waiari Operational Report 10 June 20206

Staff Peter Bahrs, Manager: Water Services

Key Points

- Updates included ongoing work with SNR Consulting on resource consent monitoring, plans for iwi to take over Waiari monitoring responsibilities, and the positive feedback received for the ecological monitoring training sessions conducted with SLR and local students.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/5

Moved: Cr Laura Rae

Seconded: Cr Steve Morris

That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiari Operational Report 10 June 20206".
- (b) Provides feedback or comment on report, as needed.

CARRIED

10 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Timestamp: 1 hour and 10 minutes

10.1 Western Bay of Plenty District Council Verbal Update

Staff Brad Singh, General Manager: Infrastructure

Key Points

- Mr Singh announced that McConnell Dowell was advertising a permanent, full-time cadetship at the Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant, with a focus on candidates who demonstrated a strong connection to iwi values and environmental protection.
- A new graduate role within council water services was being developed, with input from iwi partners to shape the job description, and the potential for the role to transition to the Water Services Organisation depending on the progress of the transition.

11 CLOSING KARAKIA

Koro Manu Pene closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 12:04pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 2 September 2026.

UNCONFIRMED