



Tauranga City

DRAFT MINUTES

**Ordinary Council meeting
Tuesday, 11 August 2026**

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, L1, 90 DEVONPORT ROAD,
TAURANGA
ON TUESDAY, 11 AUGUST 2026 AT 9:30 AM DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY AND BYLAW,
AND KEEPING OF ANIMALS BYLAW**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cr Kevin Schuler (Chair), Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Glen Crowther, Cr Rick Curach, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Marten Rozeboom, Cr Hēmi Rolleston

IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Omundsen (General Manager: Regulatory and Community Services), Vicky Grant-Ussher (Policy Analyst), Sarah Holmes (Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor), Quentin Tawaka (Governance Advisor)

EXTERNAL: Submitters as listed in the minutes

Timestamps are included at the start of each item and signal where the agenda item can be found in the recording of the Council meeting held on 11 August 2026 at [Council's YouTube Channel](#).

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Cr Hēmi Rolleston opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION CO/26/14/1

Moved: Cr Rick Curach
Seconded: Cr Glen Crowther

That apologies from Mayor Mahé Drysdale, Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular, Cr Rod Taylor be received and 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 THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Nil

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

Nil

10 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Nil

11 BUSINESS

11.1 Hearings Report: Dog Management Policy and Bylaw and Keeping of Animals Bylaw

Staff Vicky Grant-Ussher, Policy Analyst

Submitters

Timestamp: 5 minutes and 50 seconds

1. Duncan Newington

- Mr Newington was a casual commuter cyclist and long-term Matua resident who regularly used shared walkways.
- There had been a significant increase in dog ownership and many dogs being uncontrolled on shared pathways had been observed. He reported experiencing numerous near misses with dogs while cycling, including on the day of the hearing.
- Greater education, awareness and signage for dog owners regarding leash requirements and shared pathway use was needed.

- He considered that both dog owners and cyclists shared responsibility for safety on walkways.
- Any bylaw changes should be supported by education, signage and an initial visible enforcement presence. Community volunteers could assist bylaws officers with educating the public in key locations. Some enforcement may be necessary to achieve compliance once changes were introduced.
- In response to a question, Mr Newington advised Council should focus on education, clear signage and a visible presence in key locations when introducing any new rules. He considered that a period of enforcement would likely be required to achieve compliance and establish expected behaviours.

Timestamp: 14 minutes and 20 seconds

2. Trevor Bloomfield

- Mr Bloomfield agreed that dogs should be on a leash in busy public areas and on boardwalks.
- He opposed restrictions on dogs accessing the Mount dunes and questioned the evidence that dogs posed a significant threat to birds in those areas. He felt responsible dog owners knew their dogs' behaviour, and would leash them if there was a risk to wildlife.
- He stated that dog owners often alerted each other to the presence of nesting birds and put dogs on leads when required and considered that dogs in the dunes helped deter pests such as rats, rabbits and cats.
- He expressed concern that opportunities for off-leash dog walking were being progressively reduced and believed the existing rules around beach access and seasonal restrictions were confusing.
- Mr Bloomfield suggested that most regular dog walkers were responsible and cared about both their dogs and the environment and felt there was sufficient beach space for both dog walkers and other users, particularly outside the busy summer season.
- In response to a question, Mr Bloomfield said that responsible dog owners generally respected the environment and other beach users. He considered there was sufficient beach space to accommodate different users and noted that many dog owners already avoided busy areas and peak summer periods.

Timestamp: 20 minutes and 50 seconds

3. Brian Dey

- Mr Dey spoke as an Omanu resident and regular beach user who was concerned about the impact of dogs on beach users. He argued that the issue was primarily with dog owners rather than the dogs themselves.
- There were a large number of dogs in Tauranga, and he considered that non-dog owners were disadvantaged in some public spaces.
- He raised concerns about off-leash dogs approaching beach users and families on Omanu Beach and considered the existing dog transit arrangement at Omanu Beach had been unsuccessful because many people did not follow the rules.
- He proposed creating a clearly defined dog-free section of beach around the Omanu Surf Club area, with dog access provided via designated accessways on either side.
- A dog-free area would provide certainty and safety for families, children and people uncomfortable around dogs.
- Emphasised that improved signage and active enforcement would be necessary for any rules to be effective.
- In response to a question, Mr Dey supported the provision of a dedicated dog park where dogs could be exercised off leash and considered it would be a beneficial facility for the city.

Timestamp: 28 minutes and 50 seconds

4. Tess Nesdale

- Ms Nesdale commended Council for the development and maintenance of cycleways and shared pathways.
- She emphasised that all users of shared pathways, including cyclists, dog owners, walkers and families, had a responsibility to use them safely and respectfully.
- Dog owner behaviour and responsibility were the key issues, rather than the dogs themselves.
- Elderly pathway users could feel vulnerable when approached by uncontrolled dogs.
- Ongoing public awareness and education about considerate use of shared spaces was very important, and the challenge of finding a solution that balanced the needs of all pathway users was acknowledged.
- In response to a question, Ms Nesdale said that responsible dog ownership was the key issue and that owners needed to ensure their dogs were under control. She supported ongoing education and awareness initiatives and acknowledged the challenge of developing a solution that balanced the needs of all pathway users.

At 10.01AM the meeting adjourned.

At 10.07AM the meeting resumed in open.

Timestamp: 39 minutes and 20 seconds

5. Ryan Athol

- Mr Athol spoke as a dog owner and expressed concern that dog owners had not been adequately informed about the consultation process.
- In his view, rules and regulations of existing bylaws were not being sufficiently enforced.
- He opposed requiring dogs to be on leads along Beach Road and Harbour Drive and raised concerns about safety on shared pathways, particularly the speed of e-bikes and scooters using narrow walkways which could pose a greater risk to pedestrians than dogs.
- Council should focus on improving infrastructure rather than creating additional rules. Narrow pathways were unsuitable for both pedestrians and fast-moving cyclists.
- The cost of dog registration was of concern. This could affect compliance levels.
- Council resources would be better directed toward improving facilities and shared pathway safety than introducing further restrictions on dog owners.
- In response to a question, Mr Athol said Council should communicate directly with dog owners by email, using existing registration databases. He considered this would be a simple and effective way to ensure affected dog owners were aware of consultations and proposed bylaw changes.

Timestamp: 46 minutes

6. Sandra Paterson

- Ms Paterson spoke as a long-term Mount Maunganui resident and dog owner who supported safe public spaces and responsible dog ownership. She considered the proposed bylaw relied too heavily on blanket restrictions rather than targeted, evidence-based controls.
- She opposed a blanket ban on dogs across all coastal dunes and argued restrictions should focus on areas where wildlife was known to nest or breed, but supported protecting wildlife and agreed dogs should be excluded from sensitive nesting and breeding areas.
- Off-leash areas could increase dog density in remaining spaces, potentially leading to more conflict, aggression and behavioural issues.
- Council was encouraged to adopt a targeted, location-specific management approach rather

than broad restrictions.

- In response to a question, Ms Patterson supported restrictions on dogs in fenced playgrounds and other sensitive areas where justified. She considered location-specific controls reasonable and reiterated her preference for targeted restrictions rather than broad, city-wide bans.

Timestamp: 52 minutes and 45 seconds

7. Linda Loughlin

- Ms Loughlin supported responsible dog ownership and argued that many dog-related issues were caused by owners rather than dogs.
- She suggested that dog owners should be licensed or assessed to ensure they were capable of caring for and controlling their dogs and that people should demonstrate they had suitable properties, attitudes and knowledge before owning a dog.
- Many responsible dog owners trained their dogs and managed them appropriately in public spaces, and it was felt the proposed restrictions would unfairly affect responsible dog owners while doing little to address irresponsible behaviour.
- She questioned how some of the proposed restrictions would be enforced in practice and supported restrictions on dogs in active recreation areas where appropriate.
- There were concerns regarding inconsistencies between dog exclusion zones and pathways located close to playgrounds.
- Financial incentives could encourage responsible dog ownership, such as reduced registration fees for owners who completed recognised training programmes.
- Tauranga lacked dedicated dog parks and Council should consider additional off-leash dog facilities were needed.
- Ms Loughlin supported compulsory microchipping and desexing of cats to help distinguish owned cats from feral cats and reduce unwanted breeding.

Sandra Paterson and Linda Loughlin – in response to questions

- A targeted, practical approach to dog management rather than broad restrictions was supported.
- Responsible dog ownership, training and owner accountability were key to improving outcomes.
- Restrictions in appropriate locations such as playgrounds and sensitive public spaces were supported.
- Recognising and encouraging responsible owners through training, education or incentives was encouraged.
- Location-specific controls were more effective than blanket bans.
- Designated areas and facilities for dogs, including appropriate access routes and additional off-leash spaces were supported.
- Restrictions should be evidence-based, reasonable and focused on achieving public safety and responsible pet ownership.

Timestamp: 1 hour and 3 minutes

8. Anita Lord

- Ms Lord spoke as a long-term Papamoa resident, cyclist and dog owner who regularly used local waterways and shared pathways.
- She opposed proposals requiring dogs to be on leads in the Papamoa shared pathway areas and supported continued off-leash access in suitable locations.
- Responsible behaviour by both dog owners and cyclists was essential on shared pathway. Cyclists should slow down and exercise caution around dogs, children and other pathway users. Their behaviour and/or lack of skills could contribute to pathway incidents,

rather than dogs alone.

- Increased education, signage and community awareness about respectful shared use of pathways, as well as leash requirements in busy locations such as boardwalks and heavily used pedestrian areas would improve behaviour.
- Less crowded areas should continue to be allowed to exercise dogs off lead where there was sufficient space for all users.
- In response to a question, Ms Lord said that most dog owners behaved responsibly and that restrictions should not be driven by the actions of a small minority. She acknowledged the challenges of enforcement and supported a balanced approach that allowed off-leash exercise in appropriate locations

At 10.41AM the meeting adjourned.

At 10.56AM the meeting resumed in open.

PROCEDURAL MATTER

The following procedural matter was omitted at the beginning of the meeting and was taken here.

RESOLUTION CO/26/14/2

Moved: Cr Rick Curach

Seconded: Cr Glen Crowther

That Cr Kevin Schuler chair the Council hearing in Mayor Mahé Drysdale's absence.

CARRIED

Timestamp: 1 hour and 30 minutes

9. Rose Riley

- Ms Riley advocated for the inclusion of cat management provisions in the Keeping of Animals Bylaw. Feral and stray cats posed risks to native wildlife and clearer regulation was needed to distinguish companion cats from feral cats.
- She supported mandatory microchipping and desexing of cats to improve animal welfare, reduce unwanted litters and assist with identifying owned cats.
- Cats had a negative impact on native birds, bats, lizards and other wildlife species and Tauranga contained significant areas of ecological value and threatened native species that required protection.
- Cat management measures would support Predator Free 2050 objectives and Council's biodiversity responsibilities. A number of councils had already introduced cat management bylaws, including requirements for microchipping, desexing and limits on cat numbers. A phased implementation approach, with priority given to areas near sensitive ecological sites was recommended. Responsible cat ownership would benefit both wildlife and companion animals.
- Ms Riley supported extending dog restrictions in wildlife-sensitive coastal areas to better protect nesting and breeding birds.

Timestamp: 1 hour and 38 minutes

10. Richard James – Tauranga Branch Forest and Bird

- Mr James spoke on behalf of Forest & Bird and highlighted ongoing community efforts to restore habitats and protect native wildlife. Increasing numbers of native birds were returning to coastal and urban environments, creating a need to better manage interactions between

wildlife and people.

- He supported banning dogs from coastal dunes to protect nesting and breeding bird species and supported extending the year-round dog prohibition at Shark Alley and adjacent beach areas to protect dotterel breeding habitats.
- Clear rules and signage would help educate the public about wildlife protection and responsible behaviour around nesting birds.
- Dog owners should keep dogs on leads near nesting bird areas and respect conservation signage.
- He supported the inclusion of cat management provisions in the Keeping of Animals Bylaw and advocated for compulsory microchipping, registration and desexing of cats to reduce stray and feral cat populations. Better cat management would help protect native wildlife and support biodiversity outcomes.
- Many other councils had already adopted cat management measures and considered Tauranga Council should do the same and take action on cat management rather than continuing discussions without regulatory change.
- In response to a question, Mr James considered that cat management measures could be implemented through an education-first approach, with most responsible owners likely to comply voluntarily. He suggested that enforcement costs could be minimised by focusing on awareness and gradual implementation.

The Chair advised that the Council would now hear from Dr Jessica Walker from the SPCA on both the Fireworks – Public Places and Street Use Bylaw and the Dog Management Policy Bylaw and the Keeping of Animals Bylaw

Timestamp: 1 hour and 46 minutes

11. Dr Jessica Walker – SPCA – Fireworks – Public Places and Street Use Bylaw

- Dr Walker spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on behalf of SPCA and supported restrictions on the use of fireworks in public places advising that fireworks caused distress and harm to animals, on wildlife, particularly birds during nesting and breeding seasons, created public safety risks, and placed pressure on emergency services.
- Animal owners could not always protect animals from fireworks because their use was often unpredictable. medication and other management measures were only effective when owners knew fireworks were going to occur in advance.
- Council was encouraged to take local action on fireworks given limited progress toward a national ban.
- In response to questions, Dr Walker advised local fireworks restrictions to reduce harm to animals and wildlife was supported. She advised that cat management measures such as desexing and microchipping could be implemented through education, incentives and phased programmes, and noted these measures would improve animal welfare, reduce stray cat populations and place greater responsibility on cat owners.

12. Dr Jessica Walker – SPCA – Dog Management Policy Bylaw and Keeping of Animals Bylaw

- Dr Walker advised the SPCA supported the inclusion of cat management measures in the Keeping of Animals Bylaw.
- She advocated for mandatory desexing, microchipping and registration of cats to reduce overpopulation and improve animal welfare.
- Cat management measures would help reduce stray and feral cat populations and improve the ability to reunite lost cats with their owners. Responsible cat containment would reduce risk to cats and protect wildlife.
- The SPCA supported:
 - Targeted dog restrictions in sensitive wildlife areas, coastal dunes and shared public

- spaces where conflicts occurred.
- Requirements for dogs to be on leads in cemeteries, urban parks and some shared pathways, rather than complete bans in all cases.
- Licensing requirements for properties with multiple dogs and for commercial dog walking activities.
- In response to questions, Dr Walker advised local fireworks restrictions to reduce harm to animals and wildlife was supported. She advised that cat management measures such as desexing and microchipping could be implemented through education, incentives and phased programmes, and noted these measures would improve animal welfare, reduce stray cat populations and place greater responsibility on cat owners.

Timestamp: 2 hours and 4 minutes

13. Shula Newland (online)

- Ms Newland opposed the proposal requiring dogs to be on leads along shared pathways and beachside areas in Mount Maunganui, Papamoa and Ōtūmoetai, but supported dogs being under effective control and agreed dogs should be excluded from sensitive dune areas.
- Experienced and responsible dog owners could safely exercise well-trained dogs off lead, and some dogs behaved better off lead than on lead and that socialisation was important for dog behaviour.
- Requiring dogs to be on leads could create practical and safety issues for some dog owners, including those with mobility challenges. Off-lead dog walking encouraged positive social interaction between dog owners, other pathway users and visitors.
- Fears about dogs should not determine rules for all dog owners and flexibility for responsible owners to exercise well-trained dogs off lead in appropriate areas should be kept.
- Advisory signage already encouraged dog owners to use leads in some locations and said many owners already complied voluntarily.

Timestamp: 2 hours and 13 minutes

14. David Lewis – Predator Free New Zealand Trust (online)

- Mr Lewis spoke on behalf of Predator Free New Zealand Trust and supported the inclusion of cat management measures in the Keeping of Animals Bylaw.
- Excluding cats from the bylaw overlooked a significant issue and missed an opportunity to promote responsible cat ownership.
- Microchipping, registration and desexing of cats would help distinguish companion cats from feral cats and support better management.
- Cats, while valued companion animals, were effective predators that could have significant impacts on native birds, bats, lizards and insects and there were concerns about feral cat populations and their environmental impacts, including effects on wildlife and disease transmission.
- Many councils already had cat management measures in place and considered them a normal component of responsible pet ownership. Survey results showed strong public support for microchipping and desexing of cats.
- A phased implementation approach was recommended that included limits on cat numbers in some circumstances and suggested restrictions on feeding stray cats on public land. Council could learn from the experiences of other local authorities.
- Council was encouraged to advocate for national cat management legislation and to play a role in supporting a consistent nationwide approach.

At 11.47AM the meeting adjourned.

At 11.57 the meeting resumed in open.

Timestamp: 2 hours and 34 minutes

15. Anna Wentch – Western Bay Wildlife Trust

- Ms Wentch spoke on behalf of Western Bay Wildlife Trust and supported the proposed dog management changes for Shark Alley and coastal dune areas and supported a year-round dog ban in sensitive coastal and wildlife habitats to better protect native species, saying a year-round restriction would be easier for dog owners to understand and comply with than seasonal rules.
- Council was encouraged to provide clear signage explaining that restrictions were intended to protect native wildlife and biodiversity and was requested that enforcement efforts be prioritised in key biodiversity hotspots such as Moturiki, Mount Main Beach and Mauao.
- The inclusion of cat management measures in the Keeping of Animals Bylaw was supported as cats posed a significant threat to native wildlife, including birds and other taonga species, regardless of whether they were owned or feral.
- Cat management provisions would support local conservation efforts, animal welfare outcomes and Predator Free 2050 objectives and help drive wider awareness and cultural change towards responsible pet ownership.
- Wildlife monitoring had regularly detected cats in sensitive ecological areas, including locations where native species were present.
- The absence of local cat management regulations limited opportunities for agencies and conservation groups to address issues with cat owners.
- In response to a question, Ms Wentch said that cat management was not solely a rural or regional issue, as cats were regularly present in Tauranga's sensitive ecological areas and were impacting native wildlife. While she supported a broader regional approach, she considered local bylaws were also needed to address the issue

Timestamp: 2 hours and 44 minutes

16. Emma Richardson – Bay Conservation Alliance

- Ms Richardson spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on behalf of Bay Conservation Alliance and supported stronger protections for native wildlife, highlighting the importance of Tauranga's coastal habitats for threatened native species, including dotterel, kororā (little blue penguins) and grey-faced petrels.
- Dogs and cats continued to pose risks to wildlife in sensitive coastal environments, and she supported banning dogs from coastal dunes, except when using designated beach accessways on leash and extending the year-round dog restriction at Moturiki/Shark Alley and surrounding areas to protect breeding and nesting wildlife.
- Conservation groups and wildlife rehabilitation organisations regularly dealt with wildlife impacts caused by dogs and cats, noting that many volunteers dedicated significant time to predator control and wildlife protection, and stronger cat management would support those efforts.
- The inclusion of cat management provisions in the Keeping of Animals Bylaw was supported and was advocacy for compulsory microchipping and desexing of cats as part of responsible pet ownership.

Emma Richardson and **Rose Riley** in response to questions:

- Cat management was an urban as well as a regional issue, with cats regularly impacting wildlife in Tauranga's coastal and ecological areas.
- Compulsory microchipping and registration could utilise existing national systems and would not require a separate council-run register.
- Stronger cat management measures would help reduce stray and feral cat populations by promoting responsible ownership.

- Unmanaged companion cats contributed to wider wildlife impacts and feral cat populations.
- Supported a consistent approach across councils to improve awareness, education and conservation outcomes.
- Clearer cat management policies would support the work of conservation groups and volunteers working to protect native wildlife.
- The costs of cat management should primarily sit with cat owners rather than the wider community.

RESOLUTION CO/26/14/3

Moved: Cr Steve Morris

Seconded: Cr Marten Rozeboom

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Hearings Report: Dog Management Policy and Bylaw and Keeping of Animals Bylaw".
- (b) Receives the written submissions on the draft revised Dog Management Policy and Bylaw and Keeping of Animals Bylaw (Attachment 1 and Attachment 2)
- (c) Receives the verbal submissions from those submitters who wish to speak to their submission (speakers' submissions are provided in Attachment 3).

CARRIED

Attachments

- 1 Presentation: SPCA
- 2 Presentation: Bay Conservation Alliance

At 12.30pm the meeting adjourned.

At 2.20pm the meeting resumed in open.

11.2 Hearings Report: Street Use and Public Places Bylaw - Fireworks and Real Estate Sign Amendments

Staff Jane Barnett, Policy Analyst

Submitters

Timestamp: 4 hours and 53 minutes

17. Dave Lathan – Chief Financial Officer – Bower Real Estate

- Mr Lathan opposed reducing the permitted size of residential real estate signs, supporting retention of the existing 1,800 mm × 1,200 mm size, saying that larger signs remained important for clearly advertising properties and agents to passing motorists and potential buyers.
- Real estate signs were considered an important and effective marketing tool, particularly for vendors and locally operated real estate businesses.

- There were concerns that changing the permitted dimensions would require Bower Real Estate and other agencies to replace existing signs, creating unnecessary cost and waste.
- Sensible controls over sign placement and safety were supported, but the proposed size reduction was disproportionate to the problem being addressed.
- Council was asked to retain the established sign dimensions and work with the real estate industry on any future changes.

At 2.25pm, Cr Glen Crowther entered the meeting.

Timestamp: 4 hours and 59 minutes

18. Edward Peacock – Peacocks Real Estate

- Mr Peacock advised he had been in the Real Estate business in Tauranga and larger surrounding areas for 45 years.
- Peacocks Real Estate strongly opposed the sign amendments as in the 45 years of working in the Tauranga area they had never received a complaint regarding their signage, nor had they been seen as any sort of safety concern.
- The proposed dimensions were overly restrictive, economically damaging to local business and impractical for a significant number of residential and rural properties.
- Council was requested to reconsider this restricting proposal and to allow for standard industry sizes, specifically 1800 by 1200, which was vital for effective marketing, particularly for properties going to auction.
- This change would cause a disruption to established business and marketing infrastructure digital systems which would mean a complete and costly overhaul to accommodate this change. Peacock Real Estate was a two person boutique operation, and this would mean a disproportionate and unfair financial and administrative burden to this small business and other small businesses.
- A reduction in the signage did not address practicality, visibility and typography issues in and around the diverse Tauranga region. Peacock Real Estate already practiced self-regulation by using smaller signs on properties with limited frontage or inadequate display space.
- Signage was the cornerstone of directing prospective buyers to properties. The proposed bylaw felt like a solution looking for a problem. Council was urged to consider amending the maximum.
- In response to a question, Mr Peacock advised that he had never had a verbal or formal complaint about the signage. If a complaint had been received it would have been investigated immediately.

Timestamp: 5 hours and 7 minutes

19. Rebecca Donald – Fireworks

- Ms Donald was an avid animal lover who had owned pets all her life and fully supported the proposed ban on fireworks.
- She was in favour of organised fireworks events away from animals and houses but was generally opposed to fireworks because of the harm they had and could cause to animals and human beings.
- On Guy Fawkes night, pets were shut indoors and all windows closed in the hope that no harm came to pets. The local stories of horses being harmed was shocking and heartbreaking.
- There was a national petition to ban all fireworks in New Zealand, however it seemed that a lot of people were not aware of it.

- Fireworks were a very beautiful spectacle but were also very dangerous. Animals were very sensitive to sounds. The intense sounds of the explosions caused stress, panic and terror for them.

At 2.42pm the meeting adjourned.

At 2.48pm the meeting resumed in open.

Timestamp: 5 hours and 20 minutes

20. Ariel Young – Fireworks

- Ms Young supported a complete ban on the sale and use of fireworks, citing negative impacts from her childhood experience in China, including noise, fire risk, rubbish, and disturbance to people and animals.
- She said traditions could evolve and that community safety, peace, and wellbeing should come first.
- She raised concerns about animal welfare, noting that pets, wildlife, and farm animals were frightened or harmed by fireworks.
- Fireworks caused injuries, property damage, fire risks, and extra pressure on emergency services.
- It was very concerning that fireworks could be bought during the sale period and stored for later use, making enforcement difficult.
- Private fireworks affected neighbourhoods over several days and late at night, disturbing children, older residents, and shift workers.
- Ms Young felt a complete ban would be clearer and easier to enforce, while public displays would still allow safer community celebrations.

At 2.56pm the meeting adjourned.

At 3.01pm the meeting resumed in open.

Timestamp: 5 hours and 33 minutes

21. Kim Raubenheimer – Bay of Plenty Real Estate Media Specialists - Real Estate Signs

- Ms Raubenheimer advised she thought that some real estate agents were still confused about what Council was trying to achieve.
- She felt that one signage, put as close to a fence as possible would be best, although that was not always possible.
- If the rules were known they could be policed to the best of the media specialist's ability.
- It would be helpful to have a Council contact person to ring if needed when special circumstances arose and advice or permission was needed.
- In response to a question, Ms Raubenheimer advised that sold signage was monitored and picked up to be used again. Election signage could be monitored as well. She also advised that the placing of signage was strictly monitored. Some V-shaped signage was allowed depending on the size of the berm. This was classed as two signs.

RESOLUTION CO/26/14/4

Moved: Cr Marten Rozeboom

Seconded: Cr Hēmi Rolleston

That the Council:

- (a) Receives the report "Hearings Report: Street Use and Public Places Bylaw - Fireworks and Real Estate Sign Amendments".
- (b) Receives the written submissions on the proposed fireworks and real estate signage amendments to the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw (**Attachments One and Two**).
- (c) Receives the verbal submissions from submitters who wish to be heard.

CARRIED

12 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

13 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Nil

14 CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Steve Morris closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 3.12pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 22 September 2026.