
Minutes for a meeting of the Waikato Raupatu River Trust and Waikato District Council Co-Governance Joint Committee held in the Manu Koorero Meeting Room, 451 Old Taupiri Road, Hopuhopu on **MONDAY, 20 MAY 2024 at 9.30AM.**

Present:

Mayor JA Church (Co-Chair)
Cr C Eyre
Cr J Gibb
Cr K Ngataki

Trustee Tukoroirangi Morgan (Co-Chair)
Trustee Huirama Matatahi
Trustee Jeff Green – *from 10.25am*
Trustee Donald Turner – *from 10.07am (via audio visual link)*

Attending:

Trustee H Raumati-Tu'ua (Alternate Member)
Cr P Matatahi-Poutapu
Cr T Turner
Cr V Reeve
Cr L Thomson
Cr M Keir

Waikato District Council

Mr TG Whittaker (Chief Operating Officer)
Mrs M Paki (Executive Manager, Maaori Partnerships)
Ms A Diaz (Chief Financial Officer) – *via audio visual link*
Mr W Gauntlett (Community Growth General Manager)
Mr V Ramduny (Strategic Initiatives & Projects Manager)
Mr K Martin (Waters Manager)
Mr G Ormsby (Community Resilience Strategic Advisor)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Policy & Planning Manager)
Mr J Fuller – *from 10.47am*
Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

Waikato Tainui

Ms M Tukere (General Manager, Oranga)
Mr J Falwasser (Manager, Environment)
Mrs M Nepia (Principal Advisor to the Chief Executive)

The Committee opened the hui with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Mr Matatahi/Cr Ngataki)

THAT the Joint Management Agreement Committee receives the apologies from:

- **Mr G Ion (Chief Executive, Waikato District Council) for non-attendance; and**
- **Trustee Mr J Green for lateness.**

CARRIED

JMA2405/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Cr Ngataki/Cr Gibb)

THAT the agenda for the meeting of the Waikato Raupatu River Trust and Waikato District Council Co-Governance Joint Committee held on Monday, 20 May 2024 be confirmed and:

- a. **all items therein be considered in open meeting; and**
- b. **all reports be received.**

CARRIED

JMA2405/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Cr Eyre/Ms Tuau-Raumati)

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Waikato Raupatu River Trust and Waikato District Council Co-Governance Joint Committee held on Thursday, 7 September 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

JMA2405/03

ACTIONS REGISTER/MATTERS ARISING

Agenda Item 6

A verbal update on the Actions Register and Matters Arising was provided with the following items raised:

- It was noted that a Social Procurement update is required from Council. It was also noted that the question around the support of Maangai Maaori being reinstated with Council is also not quite clear. It was confirmed that a representation review is being conducted in 2026.
- The committee acknowledged the unanimous support of Maaori wards at the last Council meeting in the Chambers and noted the discussion was passionate and productive.
- A response was provided to the query raised in relation to Maangai Maaori and the Committee was provided with an outline of the initiatives Council has put in place for Maaori representation and voices such as the mana whenua forums, the Maaori Partnerships Team which is growing and the unanimous support of Maaori wards.
- A Social Procurement update was provided to the Committee and the work that is underway in this space from Council. Mr Morgan also outlined the work Waikato Tainui have undertaken in this space including the Ruakura Hub and other economic ventures. It was noted that Waikato Tainui are happy to share the learnings they have had along the way in this space.
- The Chief Operating Officer advised that another piece of social procurement work being undertaken is the small business panel that has been developed with the assistance of the Procurement Manager.
- It was noted on Page 66 of the agenda that there seems to be a lot of projects underway that are funded and Waikato Tainui extended an opportunity to assist Council with hosting an information evening that maaori businesses can attend to gain an understanding of the Council processes with Contracts (the tendering process, the paperwork needed and any other business requirements) so businesses can better equip and prepare for potential contracts.

ACTION: Request from Waikato Tainui that the graphic that was suggested at the last JMA hui that shows progress be drafted by WDC then sent to WT staff to provide feedback then present at next meeting.

ACTION: Request a timeframe from Waikato District Council for the supplier data that was requested.

REPORTS

Setting the Scene: Waananga Future Partnership & Working Relationship. Agenda Item 7.1

A verbal discussion was held in relation to the future partnership & working relationship of the Joint Management Agreement Committee and the following items were highlighted:

- A detailed update was provided by Mr Morgan in relation to some of the proposed legislation being tabled from the Coalition Government and it was outlined for the Committee the steps that have been taken by Waikato Tainui to date to hold the Government to account and ensure the issues are clearly raised and responded to within legislative timeframes.
- The proposed legislation from the Coalition government is coming very quickly and timeframes to respond formally are very tight so there is a lot of work happening in this space to ensure that the voice of maaori is heard and the issues are highlighted.

Progress Update – Joint Strategic Work Programme 2023/2024: Agenda Item 7.2

The report was taken as read and the Strategic Initiatives & Project Manager along with Ms M Tukere provided an overview and updates to the Committee. The following discussion was held:

Key Highlights:

- It was noted that a Variation 3 extension was requested until September 2024 from the minister.
- The Proposed strategic focus for the coming year (2024/2025) was outlined by the Strategic Initiatives & Project Manager as per the report.

Resolved: (Cr Ngataki/Mr T Morgan)

THAT the Joint Management Agreement Committee:

- a. receives the progress update on the Strategic Work Programme for 2023-2024; and**
- b. provides feedback on the proposed focus areas to inform the Strategic Work Programme for 2024-2025.**

CARRIED

JMA2405/04

Maaori Wards Referendum

Agenda Item 7.3

A verbal discussion was held in relation to the proposed bill announced by the Coalition Government on Maaori Wards referendums and the following issues were highlighted:

- Council's position in support of maaori wards was further established and acknowledged and the unanimous support received.

Marae Resilience Strategy - Update

Agenda Item 7.4

The Community Resilience Strategic Advisor gave the Committee a verbal update on the Marae Resilience Strategy and the following discussion was held:

- The key highlights of the past year was outlined by the Community Resilience Strategic Advisor and the work that has been done to date working closely with the 39 marae in the Waikato.
- The key steps of Civil Defence were outlined along with the resilience strategy that sits in this space. The potential social procurement opportunities that can arise in this space were also highlighted.
- It was noted that the Community Board & Community Committee resilience plans don't seem to be progressing as quickly as the marae resilience plans – how can these two areas work together to move as one going forward? It was noted that collaboration across these spaces were underway.
- Cr Ngataki acknowledged the great work done by the Marae Resilience team and also highlighted for the Committee the work done so far in the Port Waikato area through to Tuakau and all the marae that are working together on their resilience plans.
- In response to a query regarding funding for these programmes moving forward it was noted that funding could be sought through the Long Term Plan.
- An outline of the strategic plans for Waikato Tainui marae that are in place was provided to the Committee.
- The Infrastructure at Port Waikato was discussed and it was queried what is happening in this space to mitigate the risks from flooding in the future? Her Worship the Mayor outlined the complex nature of the infrastructure at Port Waikato and provided the Committee of an outline of the partnership that could occur when Waikato Tainui and Waikato District Council work together.

- A query was raised in relation to the learnings that have been taken on board since Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023. What does Waikato District Council bring to this space? It was noted that marae throughout the Waikato can come together quickly and mobilise efficiently if a response is required – can other members of the community and Council mobilise quickly too?
- An in depth discussion was had regarding the resilience framework and whether this works for maaori – especially if other members of the community (i.e – farmers, community boards, council) are not able to mobilise as quickly as marae can. What do maaori potentially lose in this space if the resilience plans across the board are not at the same level of readiness.
- The Community Resilience Strategic Advisor noted and acknowledged the concerns raised by the Committee and advised that the community resilience plans are about having these conversations and working together to build relationships moving forward.

Mana Whenua Forum Update
Agenda Item 7.5

The Executive Manager, Maaori Partnerships spoke to the report which was taken as read and the following discussion was held:

- An overview of the report was provided and the intent of the forum was highlighted for the Committee.
- It was noted that the Terms of Reference for the forum will better align with the Waikato Tainui structure along with input from Iwi.
- Cr Matatahi-Poutapu spoke to the iwi contribution for the mana whenua forum and it was further noted that the forum is about empowering marae in this space.

Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Ngataki)

THAT the Waikato Raupatu River Trust and Waikato District Council Co-Governance Joint Committee:

- a. receives the report, update and consultation plan; and**
- b. notes that the Mana Whenua forums will begin in September 2024.**

CARRIED

JMA2405/05

The meeting adjourned at 10.48am for morning tea and resumed at 11.06am

Fast Track Consenting Bill

Agenda Item 7.6

A verbal discussion was held in relation to the proposed bill Fast Track Consenting Bill and the following items were highlighted.

- It was advised that last Friday Waikato Tainui met with the Prime Ministers office and had a discussion around the issues with the Fast Track Consenting Bill and what the way forward will be.
- It was noted that one of the main concerns with the bill is around co-governance with maaori and this is an absolute must. It was further advised that the Government have since come back to Waikato Tainui and have agreed with 90% of the issues that were raised.
- It was advised that Waikato Tainui on a whole think fast-track consenting is a good thing for the country but not at the expense of treaty settlements or the environment. Waikato Tainui are meeting with the select committee in the coming weeks at Ruakura.
- The Waikato District Council submission to the government on the fast-track consenting bill was outlined for the Committee and it was noted that a concern was ensuring that directly affected properties still have a voice and a say.
- It was noted that Conservation estates were agreed to in the initial bill however this appears to have been renegeed and not included. It was confirmed that Waikato Tainui want to get back to the table to discuss this further.
- Cr Keir acknowledged the lead that Waikato Tainui are taking in this space with development and noted that this was a good opportunity to work together in regards to development. It was further noted that Waikato Tainui have a forward thinking strategic plan and are looking 100 to 150 years into the future.

Waters: Better Off Funding Update

Agenda Item 7.7

The Waters Manager spoke to the report which was taken as read and the following discussion was held:

- It was noted that Waikato District Council followed the script in relation to the Better off funding and the money that was provided to Council has been utilised for the projects outlined.

Resolved: (Mr Morgan/Cr Eyre)

THAT the Waikato Raupatu River Trust and Waikato District Council Co-Governance Joint Committee:

- a. receives the Three Waters Reform Better Off Funding Special Project Update April 2024 report; and**
- b. notes that the project management for the Three Waters reform better off funding is ongoing.**

CARRIED

JMA2405/06

Waters: Three Waters General Update - 2024
Agenda Item 7.8

The Waters Manager spoke to the report which was taken as read and the following discussion was held:

- Paper highlights the significant challenges ahead of WDC in the Wastewater Treatment space
- Highlighted the Te Kauwhata Plant which is now compliant
- Huntly WWTP – what is happening in this space particularly with the Sleepyhead development? Sleepyhead need to connect to a compliant plant (that’s correct) and the Waters Manager outlined the steps being taken to bring the plant to compliance (staged approach)
- Affordability issues highlighted by the COO for our communities – WDC meeting with the minister in the coming weeks to discuss the affordability challenges now that the reform legislation has been repelled
- Is everything required to bring the plants up to compliance in the LTP? It’s in our 30 year plan –
- If we could have utopia we would spent 1.3B dollars right now in our three waters space –
- Her worship outlined the amount of ratepayers WDC have on the reticulated system
- Life after watercare – ends June 2026. WDC currently exploring what three waters looks like after this date. Potential options discussed – WDC have a hard deadline. WDC may have to look at a phased approach – Her worship also outlined some options
- Watercarte take 75% of their water for Auckland out of the awa and Hunua Dam – extensive discussion around the watercare relationship and the options moving forward and the affordability issues for our communities
- GOT TO BE A DIFFERENT MODEL!

- One of the big issues is Compliance – Going to be an interesting ride but
- Undertaking from WT to use their influence to see what they can do
- This

Draft Annual Plan 2024/25 and Maaori Freehold Land Rating Valuations Agenda Item 7.9

The Chief Financial Officer spoke to the report which was taken as read and the following discussion was held:

- The Enhanced Annual Plan hearings for the took place last week in the Council Chambers with deliberations starting on Tuesday, 4 June and the adoption of the plan will occur at the end of June.
- Rating valuations have not yet landed with Council and it was noted that the issue is between Quotable Value and the Office of the Auditor Valuer. Council are hoping for the valuations to be ready the week of 12 June with letters to be distributed to property owners.
- The Chief Financial Officer gave a brief overview of Maaori Freehold Land Rating valuations and no further discussion was held.

Waikato District Resilience Project Update Agenda Item 7.10

The Policy & Planning Manager spoke to the report which was taken as read and the following discussion was held:

- The Council recommendation is for two members be nominated from Waikato Tainui for the Committee.
- It was confirmed that Waikato Tainui will nominate Huirama Matatahi and Parekawhia McLean as the two members for the Committee with Mr Jeff Green acting as an alternative member if either of the two are not available.
- Cr Matatahi-Poutapu requested to be a council representative for this governance group as an alternative member also.

Resolved: (Mr T Morgan/Cr Ngataki)

THAT the Joint Management Agreement Committee:

- a. notes the request for an iwi representative from the Joint Management Agreement Committee; and**
- b. nominates a Waikato Tainui representative for the Waikato District Resilience Project Governance Group.**

CARRIED

JMA2405/09

Hopuhopu Innovation Hub - Update
Agenda Item 7.11

Ms M Tukere spoke to the report which was taken as read and the following discussion was held:

- A short video presentation was provided to the Committee outlining the 20-30 year development plan for Hopuhopu and highlighting the works that will be undertaken over the coming months.
- It was confirmed that Resource Consent has been submitted to Council for the housing development.
- It was noted that there is a lot of support and interest from the wider community with the Hopuhopu development and Waikato Tainui confirmed that Innovation Hub video presentation can be uploaded to the Council website for all residents of the district to view.
- The report outlines some of the key issues with the housing development that Waikato Tainui are currently working on with Council to resolve.

Resolved: (Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church/Mr Matatahi)

THAT the Joint Management Agreement Committee:

- a. receives the Hopuhopu Innovation Hub update; and**
- b. notes that there are key issues regarding the Hopuhopu Papakainga Housing development that are still to be resolved to enable the Resource Consent application to be processed and consent granted.**

CARRIED

JMA2405/10

Maaori Ward Councillors Updates – Tai Runga Takiwaa & Tai Raro Takiwaa
Agenda Item 7.12

Cr Matatahi-Poutapu provided the Committee with a verbal update on the key highlights from Tai Raro Takiwaa ward:

- The discussion around maaori wards that was had in the Council chambers was highlighted by Cr Matatahi-Poutapu and it was noted that having the full support of the elected members was great to see.
- Cr Matatahi-Poutapu spoke to the learnings that have been made in relation to maaori and understanding their role in supporting Council and what is required in this space.
- A brief overview of the work that has been undertaken with the Resilience Project was highlighted for the Committee.

Cr Turner provided the Committee with a verbal update on the key highlights from Tai Runga Takiwaa ward:

- It was noted by Cr Turner that Council has been a big learning curve over the last 18 months and there are still more learnings to come.
- A brief update was provided on the work that Cr Turner has undertaken with introducing both Council staff and elected members to both Koroneihana and Poukai along with Regatta and the Tainui games.
- Cr Turner confirmed that her focus going forward is building relationships with Council and maaori to ensure the connection is strong.
- Due to a bereavement in her family Cr Turner was not present for the discussion on the maaori wards in the Council Chambers but it was noted that the unanimous support from all elected members was wonderful to hear.
- Another focus for Cr Turner is ensuring that maaori constituents are engaging with Council and have an understanding on consultation documents and how to make submissions so their voice can be heard.

Response to Waikato-Tainui's presentation to All Councils on Strategic Issues
Agenda Item 7.13

There was no further discussion on this item as it was covered in previous item discussions.

