



# **KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau**

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**TAONGA O TE WHENUA - TREASURE OF THE LAND**

**The Ordinary Meeting of the  
Kawerau District Council will be held  
on Wednesday 29 April 2026  
in the Council Chambers  
commencing at 9.00am**

**A G E N D A**

## **GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC FORUM AT MEETINGS**

1. A period of thirty minutes is set aside for a public forum at the start of each Ordinary Council or Standing Committee meeting, which is open to the public. This period may be extended on by a vote by members.
2. Speakers may address meetings on any subject. However, issues raised must not include those subject to legal consideration, or be issues, which are confidential, personal, or the subject of a formal hearing.
3. Each speaker during the public forum is permitted to speak for a maximum of three minutes. However, the Chairperson has the discretion to extend the speaking time.
4. Standing Orders are suspended for the duration of the public forum.
5. Council and Committees, at the conclusion of the public forum, may decide to take appropriate action on any of the issues raised.
6. With the permission of the Chairperson, members may ask questions of speakers during the period reserved for public forum. Questions by members are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

**The Ordinary Meeting of the Kawerau District Council  
will be held on Wednesday 29 April 2026  
in the Council Chambers commencing at 9.00am**

## **A G E N D A**

**1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer**

**2 Apologies**

**3 Leave of Absence**

**4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

Any member having a “conflict of interest” with an item on the Agenda should declare it, and when that item is being considered, abstain from any discussion or voting. The member may wish to remove themselves from the meeting while the item is being considered.

**5 Meeting Notices**

**6 Nga Mihimihi | Acknowledgements**

**7 Public Forum**

**8 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

**8.1 Ordinary Council – 25 March 2026**

**Pgs. 1 - 9**

**Recommendation**

*That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**8.2 Extraordinary Council – 15 April 2026**

**Pgs. 10 - 11**

**Recommendation**

*That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 15 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**9 RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**9.1 Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting – 30 March 2026**

**Pgs. 12 - 16**

**Recommendation**

*That the Minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 30 March 2026 be received.*

## **10 RECEIPT OF REGIONAL MINUTES**

### **10.1 Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee Meeting – 19 February 2026**

**Pgs. 17 - 19**

#### **Recommendation**

*That the Minutes of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee meeting held on 19 February 2026 be received.*

### **10.2 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum – 12 March 2026**

**Pgs. 20 - 31**

#### **Recommendation**

*That the Minutes of the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum meeting held on 12 March 2026 received.*

### **10.3 Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group – 2 April 2026**

**Pgs. 32 - 40**

#### **Recommendation**

*That the Minutes of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group meeting held on 2 April 2026 be received.*

## **11 Her Worship the Mayor's Report (101400)**

**Pgs. 41 – 46**

#### **Recommendation**

*That Her Worship the Mayor's report for the period Thursday 19 March 2026 to Wednesday 22 April 2026 be received.*

## **12 Confirming Local Government New Zealand Membership (Chief Executive Officer) (103100)**

**Pgs. 47 - 72**

Attached is a report from the Chief Executive Officer covering the Confirming Local Government New Zealand Membership.

#### **Recommendations**

- 1. That the report "Confirming Local Government New Zealand Membership" be received.*
- 2. That Council confirms its membership of Local Government New Zealand to March 2027.*

## **13 2025 Triennial Election and Other Electoral Matters (Communications and Engagement Manager) (101287)**

**Pgs. 73 - 90**

Attached is a report from the Communications and Engagement Manager covering the 2025 Triennial Election and Other Electoral Matters.

#### **Recommendations**

1. *That the report “2025 Triennial Election and Other Electoral Matters” be received.*
2. *That Council resolves to renew the contract with Independent Election Services as Kawerau District Council’s Electoral Officer for a period of three years commencing 1 July 2026, including the 2028 triennial elections, to 30 June 2029.*
3. *That Council resolves to proceed through the relevant electoral decisions, including the consideration of postal versus booth voting, with further updates and decision-making to Council as required.*

**14 Dog Registration Fees 2026/27 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services and Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (213100)**

**Pgs. 91 - 95**

Attached is a report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services and Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning covering the Dog Registration Fees 2026/27.

**Recommendations**

1. *That the report “Dog Registration Fees 2026/27” be received.*
2. *That Council sets the Dog Registration fees for 2026/27 as follows:*

Neutered Dog	\$44.00
Entire Dog	\$89.00
Late payment penalty-applied 2 August 2025	50% addition to the fee charged
Seizure Fee (at the Dog Control Officer’s discretion)	\$100.00
Fee for first impounding	\$100.00
Fee for second impounding	\$137.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$177.00
Sustenance Fee (Daily)	\$14.00
Microchipping Fee	\$19.00
Replacement Tag Fee	\$7.50
Rehoming Fee	\$44.00

**15 Exclusion of the Public**

**Recommendation**

*That the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

- 1. Minutes for Confidential Meeting Held on 25 March 2026**
- 2. Update on Agreement to Lease and Subdivision of the Circus Paddock**

*The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded; the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Information & Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution is as follows:*

<b>General Subject of the matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
<p>1. Minutes for Confidential Meeting Held on 25 March 2026.</p> <p>2. Update on Agreement to Lease and Subdivision of the Circus Paddock.</p>	<p>Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.</p>	<p>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.</p> <p>Section 48 (1) (a) (i)</p>

*This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 7 (2) (b) (i) of that Act.*

## **16 Re-admission of the Public**

### **Recommendation**

*That Council resume an open meeting and that the public be re-admitted to the meeting.*

## **17 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer**

M Godfery

**Chief Executive Officer**

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Kawerau District Council  
held on Wednesday 25 March 2026  
in the Council Chamber commencing at 9.05am**

**Present:** Her Worship the Mayor F K N Tunui  
Deputy Mayor S Kingi  
Councillor W Apiata  
Councillor M Dowie  
Councillor T Hill  
Councillor B J Julian  
Councillor G T Leokava-Taani  
Councillor J Ross  
Councillor A R Worsley

**In Attendance:** Chief Executive Officer (M Godfery)  
Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services (L Butler)  
Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning (M Glaspey)  
Communications & Engagement Manager (T Humberstone)  
Economic and Development Manager (L Barton)  
Administration Officer (L Kerei)  
Mayoral Aide (M Rogers)

**1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer**

*Pastor Mark Kingi opened the meeting with a prayer.*

**2 Apologies**

*No Apologies were received.*

**3 Leave of Absence**

*No Leave of Absence were received.*

**4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

*No Declarations of Conflict of Interest were received.*

**5 Meeting Notices**

*The Chief Executive Officer gave the following meeting notice:*

- *The Mayor's Report has been tabled.*
- *Tabled is additional documentation for agenda item 12 – Draft Plan Change 5 (Boundary Re-organisation) approval for community feedback.*

## 6 Nga Mihimihi | Acknowledgements

*No Nga Mihimihi | Acknowledgements were received.*

## 7 Public Forum

**Andre van Schwalkwyk** raised the following about dogs:

- Mr van Schwalkwyk provided Elected Members with a detailed report that he spoke to and, gave his history with the dogs on the neighbouring property next to his business, with on-going issues starting from 2024. Mr van Schwalkwyk advised the main issue is the dogs' continuous barking. He further commented that while Council states there are currently no dogs there, there remains an issue with visiting dogs to the property and the excessive barking from them.

Her Worship the Mayor thanked Mr van Schwalkwyk for coming in and acknowledged the long history of this ongoing issue.

### **Comments from the Chief Executive Officer:**

- Chief Executive Officer advised Elected Members Council have worked within the powers Council has, this being issuing infringements, uplifting the dogs. Council has tried to work with all parties involved.
- The CEO informed Mr van Schwalkwyk that the Government has initiated a review of the Dog Control Act in order to widen the powers Council's and Central Government have in terms of dealing with more complex situations. Council will be participating in the review. Council invites Mr van Schwalkwyk to put forward the experiences he has had and any of the issues he would like to raise into that reform.

**Brett Pacey** raised the following:

- Mr Pacey advised that the vegetation along the Tarawera Awa | River, adjacent to the fire station, is starting to overgrow causing tall cutting grass. Mr Pacey also said run off flows from the walkway into the river and suggested placing boulders in the river.
- Mr Pacey suggested to make a suggestion to iwi governance team to get a reinjection pipe put in at the back of the farm and then face back into Kawerau fields.
- Mr Pacey requested if Council can adapt the Tidy Kiwi's buggies to maintain the district gutters. A suggestion to either have tools with them to brush the gutters of the leaves or install an air blower on the side of their vehicle.

Her Worship the Mayor thanked Mr Pacey for his time and advised that the three matters raised are operational and sit with Management and Chief Executive Officer.

### **Comments from the Chief Executive Officer:**

- For the placement of boulders in the Tarawera River, this will need to be done by Bay of Plenty Regional Council because of the potential to change the hydrology of the river.

- One of the Tidy Kiwi's vehicles have been altered to deal with the culverts. This is usually operated by other staff members not the Tidy Kiwi's themselves.

**Anne Kubler** raised the following:

- Ms Kubler stated that Mid 2025 she advised Council of the exposed pipe in the gutter that is outside of the Presbyterian Church on Onslow Street. She said the pipe is still exposed and is dangerous. Ms Kubler has asked Council to fix the issue even if a plate cover goes over it to make it easier/safer for pedestrians, those with walkers or prams to go over it.

**Comments from the Chief Executive Officer:**

- Chief Executive Officer advised if Ms Kubler could show him the pipe to identify if it belongs to Council or Trust Horizon. If owned by Council a Service Request can be done otherwise if Trust Horizon owns the pipe, Council can put something in place but will need their permission to do so.

**Helen Sisley** raised the following about her neighbours':

- Ms Sisley advised her neighbours' dogs are barking continuously and have attacked a person and their dog. She has phoned the police on numerous occasions and Council. She expressed that the owners should not have the dogs due to the attack and on-going issues.
- Ms Sisley stated that due to the dogs pushing on the fence, it has caused some damage. The neighbours did fix the fence but have installed screws that are sticking out on Ms Sisley's side of the fence and is now a hazard.

Her Worship the Mayor thanked Ms Sisley for coming in and for going through the proper avenues in reporting her issues with the dogs and neighbours. As stated to Mr van Schwalkwyk there is a review on the Dog Control Act which Council will be making a submission to.

**Naomi Maui** raised the following concerns about dogs:

- Ms Maui stated there are four dogs roaming around Robinson Street and surrounding streets killing cats. She advised her cat was killed by these four roaming dogs, and a service request was logged.

Her Worship the Mayor thanked Ms Maui for coming in and being brave to speak to Elected Members. The Mayor also expressed her condolences to Ms Maui on the loss of her cat.

## **8 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **8.1 Ordinary Council – 25 February 2026**

**Resolved**

*That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**Councillor Ross / Deputy Mayor Kingi  
CARRIED**

**9 CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES****9.1 Iwi Liaison Committee Meeting – 22 September 2025****Resolved**

*That the minutes of the Iwi Liaison Committee meeting held on 22 September 2025 be received.*

**Councillors Julian / Ross  
CARRIED**

**9.2 Iwi Liaison Committee Meeting – 18 February 2026****Resolved**

*That the minutes of the Iwi Liaison Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2026 be received.*

**Councillors Dowie / Apiata  
CARRIED**

**9.3 Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting – 11 March 2026****Corrections:**

- Include on page 15 under Group Manager, Operations and Services Comments and Updates, that the work expected to start on Monday 16 March is to clear the blockage in the bore in the sleeved zone.
- Add on page 15 that Her Worship the Mayor advised Elected Members that in the month of March she has the opportunity to meet with Horizon around response time for streetlights.
- Change “staff” to “Tidy Kiwis” on page 15 under item 10, Elected Members comments.

**Resolved**

*That the minutes of the Regulatory and Services Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2026 be confirmed with amendments as a true and accurate record.*

**Deputy Mayor Kingi / Councillor Worsley  
CARRIED**

## **10 CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **10.1 Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee Meeting – 19 December 2025**

**Resolved**

*That the minutes of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2025 be received.*

**Councillors Julian / Hill  
CARRIED**

### **10.2 Regional Transport Committee – 20 February 2026**

10.20am **Councillor Ross** departed from the meeting

**Resolved**

*That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2026 be received.*

**Councillors Apiata / Worsley  
CARRIED**

10.22am **Councillor Ross** returned to the meeting

### **10.3 Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group – 27 February 2026**

**Resolved**

1. *That the minutes of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Meeting held on 27 February 2026 be received.*
2. *That the Kawerau District Council representation, Councillor Waikite Apiata, be acknowledged in the Ngā Kopounga Members section of the minutes.*

**Her Worship the Mayor / Councillor Apiata  
CARRIED**

## **11 Her Worship the Mayor's Report (101400)**

**Resolved**

*That Her Worship the Mayor's report for the period Thursday 19 February 2026 to Wednesday 18 March 2026 be received.*

**Her Worship the Mayor / Deputy Mayor Kingi  
CARRIED**

10.37am **Deputy Mayor Kingi** departed from the meeting

## **12 Draft Plan Change 5 (Boundary Re-organisation) approval for community feedback (Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (301014)**

Council discussed the report on the Draft Plan Change 5 (Boundary Re-organisation) approval for community feedback.

10.39am **Deputy Mayor Kingi** returned to the meeting

### **Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning Update:**

- Tabled is an update map with minor corrections.

### **Resolved**

1. *That the report "Draft Plan Change 5 (Boundary Re-organisation) approval for community feedback" with additional attachments tabled be received.*

**Councillor Ross / Deputy Mayor Kingi  
CARRIED**

2. *That Council approve Option 1 – Approve the draft for the community feedback with the updated attachments that have been tabled.*

**Deputy Mayor Kingi / Councillor Ross  
CARRIED**

3. *That Council approves the engagement period 27 March 2026 to 30 April 2026.*

**Councillors Julian / Apiata  
CARRIED**

4. *That Council authorises the Group Manager Regulatory and Planning to make any necessary minor drafting changes to the draft District Plan Change 5 to correct errors or omissions, or to reflect decisions made by Council, prior to final printing and publication including the tabled updated attachments.*

**Councillors Apiata / Dowie  
CARRIED**

## **13 Local Governance Statement (Chief Executive Officer) (103000)**

Council discussed the report on Local Governance Statement.

### **Chief Executive Officer Comments:**

- The Local Governance Statement is a mix of purely governance areas (e.g. electoral systems) as well as purely operation areas (e.g. equal employment opportunities). This is due to the operations of Council, through the Local Government Act, are bound by equal employment obligations.

**Resolved**

1. That the report "Local Governance Statement" be received.
2. That Council adopts the Local Governance Statement for the current triennium (2025 – 2028).

**Deputy Mayor Kingi / Councillor Hill  
CARRIED**

## **14 Proposed Budget Overview for Annual Plan 2026/27 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (201600)**

Council discussed the report on the Proposed Budget Overview for Annual Plan 2026/27.

### **Group Manage, Finance and Corporate Services Comments:**

- In Appendix 1 of the report under (C) it should read Residential Property Development not Commercial Rentals as this includes Stoneham Park and sections at Central Cove. The main cost in this area are Council's rates to itself.
- Appendix 1 outlines where all the increases are as well as explanations of what's driving each activities increases.
- NZTA have confirmed extra funding for roading drainage of \$965,000. This funding will need to be spent by 30 June 2027. This has been included in the budget.

### **Elected Members Comments:**

- On page 124 under (O) \$16k has been indicated for maintenance at the Concert Chambers. Elected Members asked for clarification on what that will be spent on. Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services advised that there are painting timber joinery and floors work to be done at the Concert Chambers.
- Elected Members queried if Council spend over the allocated budget for Vandalism (\$36,000) where will the extra funds come from. Group Manager advised that Council could increase the amount on early June 2026 comes if the current financial year has a significant increase. If there is no increase in the budget and Council went over the budget, savings that would need to be made elsewhere.

### **Action Item:**

- A new column to be included in the table on pages 116 and 117 to explain and show the original rates increase for 2026/27 (the 8.6%) and the savings Council has made.

### **Correction:**

- On page 124 under (H) bullet point 4, Road Safety should read \$5k not \$5.

**Resolved**

1. That the report "Proposed Budget Overview for Annual Plan 2026/27" be received.
2. That Council advise of any amendments to the budget estimates, for inclusion in the Annual Plan Consultation Document 2026/27 which will be adopted at the Extraordinary Council meeting on 15 April 2026.

**Councillor Ross / Deputy Mayor Kingi  
CARRIED**

**15 Exclusion of the Public – 11.40am****Resolved**

*That the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

1. **Minutes for Confidential Meeting Held on 25 February 2026**
2. **Update on Eastern Bay of Plenty Provisional Local Alcohol Policy**
3. **Onslow Street Renewal**

**Councillors Ross / Hill  
CARRIED**

*The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded; the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Information & Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution is as follows:*

<b>General Subject of the matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
1. Minutes for Confidential Meeting Held on 25 February 2026. 2. Update on Eastern Bay of Plenty Provisional Local Alcohol Policy. 3. Onslow Street Renewal.	<i>Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists. Section 48 (1) (a) (i)</i>

*This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 7 (2) (b) (i) of that Act.*

**16 Re-admission of the Public**

**Resolved**

*That Council resume an open meeting and that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 12.57pm.*

**Councillors Ross / Dowie  
CARRIED**

**17 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer**

**Pastor Mark Kingi closed the meeting with a Karakia at 12.59pm.**

F K N Tunui

**Mayor**

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**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Kawerau District Council  
held on Wednesday 15 April 2026  
commencing at 11.30am**

**Present:** Her Worship the Mayor F K N Tunui  
Deputy Mayor S Kingi  
Councillor W Apiata  
Councillor M Dowie  
Councillor T Hill  
Councillor B J Julian  
Councillor G T Leokava-Taani  
Councillor A R Worsley

**In Attendance:** Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services (L Butler)  
Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning (M Glaspey)  
Communications & Engagement Manager (T Humberstone)  
Administration Officer (L Kerei)  
Mayoral Aide (M Rogers)

**1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer**

*Pastor Mark Kingi opened the meeting with a karakia | prayer.*

**2 Nga Mihimihi | Acknowledgements**

*Thoughts are with the communities that have been impacted by the current Cyclone Vaianu.*

**3 Apologies**

*Apologies from Councillor Ross were received.*

**Councillor Julian / Deputy Mayor Kingi  
CARRIED**

**4 Leave of Absence**

*No Leave of Absence were received.*

**5 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

*No Declarations of Conflict of Interest were received.*

**6 Meeting Notices**

*Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services gave the following meeting notices:*

- *Apologies from the Chief Executive Officer and two Managers for today's meeting.*
- *Tabled is the Annual Plan Consultation Document.*

## 7 Public Forum

*No Public Forum were received*

## 8 Adoption of Annual Plan Consultation Document 2026/27 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (110400)

Council discussed the report on the Adoption of Annual Plan Consultation Document 2026/27.

### **Elected Members Comments:**

- Elected Members queried if the furniture for the Town Hall stated on page 8 under Leisure & Recreation is to replace the chairs and tables, as the current chairs do not look like they need replacing. Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services advised that Council allocate an allowance for assets to be renewed if needed.
- It was queried if music system stated on page 8 should be under Roading. Acting CEO advised the section it is under relates to the central business area and that they are the speakers that are throughout the town.

12.12pm **Councillor Leokava-Taani** departed from the meeting

12.13pm **Councillor Apiata** departed from the meeting

12.13pm **Councillor Leokava-Taani** returned to the meeting

12.17pm **Councillor Apiata** returned to the meeting

### **Resolved**

1. *That the report "Adoption of Annual Plan Consultation Document 2026/27" be received; and*
2. *That Council adopt the draft 2026/27 estimates and the proposed rates for the Consultation Document; and*
3. *That Council adopts the Consultation Document for the Annual Plan 2026/27, as presented and with any amendments as appropriate, for commencement of the special consultative procedure from 17 April 2026, with submissions closing at 5.00 p.m. on Monday 18 May 2026.*

**Deputy Mayor Kingi / Councillor Julian  
CARRIED**

## 12 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

*Pastor Mark Kingi closed the meeting with a karakia | prayer at 12.22pm.*

F K N Tunui

**Mayor**

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**Kawerau District Council Minutes of  
Risk and Assurance Committee held on 30 March 2026  
commencing at 1.00pm**

**Present:** Philip Jones – P J Associates (Chair)  
Her Worship the Mayor – F K N Tunui  
Councillor B J Julian – 1.04pm  
Councillor A R Worsley

**In Attendance:** Chief Executive Officer (M Godfery)  
Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services (L Butler)  
Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning (M Glaspey)  
Group Manager, Operations and Services (R Nel)  
Administration Officer (L Kerei)  
Mayoral Aide (M Rogers)

**1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer**

*Chief Executive Officer opened the meeting with a karakia | prayer.*

**2 Apologies**

**Received**

*Apologies for lateness from Councillor Julian were received.*

**Her Worship the Mayor / Councillor Worsley  
CARRIED**

**3 Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

*No Conflicts of Interest were received.*

**4 CONFIRMATION OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**4.1 Risk and Assurance Committee – 2 February 2026**

**Resolved**

*That the minutes of the Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting held on 2 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

**Her Worship the Mayor / Councillor Worsley  
CARRIED**

**5 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report for period – 1 January 2026 to 28 February 2026 (Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (509500)**

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning covering Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report for period – 1 January 2026 to 28 February 2026.

**Resolved**

*That the report “Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report for period – 1 January 2026 to 28 February 2026” be received.*

**Chair Jones / Her Worship the Mayor  
CARRIED**

**6 Local Implementation of the National Fuel Plan (Chief Executive Officer) (112020)**

Committee discussed the report from the Chief Executive Officer covering Local Implementation of the National Fuel Plan

**Comments from Chief Executive Officer:**

- Apologies for late tabling of the report. The report was tabled late due to the updates that came through on Friday from Central Government around what phases 1 – 4 will look like.
- The latest update is that phases 3 and 4 of the National Fuel Plan are still under consultation. Phases 1 and 2 are voluntary phases where the government will be calling for voluntary actions from individuals, businesses and the public sector.
- The reason the report has come to the committee is that local government is likely to have a role in the management and implementation of phases 3 and 4, if they were to arrive.
- The next update is due from Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment sometime this week.
- Council is in a moderately strong position in terms of internal risk.
- Other major emerging risks are Long Term Planning implications of the internal business unit for waters and Simplifying Local Government and other on-going reforms.

**Committee Comments:**

- The government have not said how they will prioritise distributing fuel in phases 3 and 4 and will be the biggest risk for communities and to ensure critical services have access to fuel.
- The committee queried if Council has considered the implications of limiting staff traveling i.e. working from home, to reduce the fuel impact. The CEO advised that Council is currently assessing potential working from home arrangements from Phase 2 onwards, along with options to reduce Council vehicle use. These considerations will be balanced against the need to prioritise critical services, such as water and refuse functions, to ensure continued operational services.
- A suggestion of adding rates capping to the Risk Profile.

**Resolved**

*That the report “Local Implementation of the National Fuel Plan” be received.*

**Councillor Worsley / Her Worship the Mayor  
CARRIED**

**7 Council Bylaw and Policy Review Update (Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (320000 & 110800)**

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning covering Council Bylaw and Policy Review Update.

**Comments from Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning:**

- Under 2.2 – Policy Reviews – It should state 4 policies are currently overdue not 7 with 2 under review not 3.
- Feedback from staff for the Trade Waste bylaw has been received and amendments are currently underway.

**Committee Comments:**

- The committee queried when the bylaws will be back to being enforceable. The Group Manager advised that if the draft is presented to Council in May consultation will then be held over a one-month period commencing in late June. The Final drafts are then reported to Council in August and if not too many changes they will be implemented by August.

**Resolved**

*That the report “Council Bylaw and Policy Review Update” be received.*

**Councillors Worsley / Julian  
CARRIED**

**8 Annual Plan Performance for the six months ended 31 December 2025 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (110400)**

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Annual Plan Performance for the six months ended 31 December 2025.

**Correction:**

- At the bottom of page 22 the Actual date should be 31-12-25 not 30-09-25.

**Resolved**

*That the report “Annual Plan Performance for the six months ended 31 December 2025” be received.*

**Councillors Julian / Worsley  
CARRIED**

**9 Treasury Report from 31 December 2025 to 28 February 2026 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (110551)**

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Treasury Report from 31 December 2025 to 28 February 2026.

**Comments from Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services:**

- As requested in the previous risk and assurance meeting the external and internal loans have been added.

**Resolved**

*That the report "Treasury Report from 31 December 2025 to 28 February 2026" be received.*

**Chair Jones / Her Worship the Mayor  
CARRIED**

**10 Risk and Assurance Review Timetable from March 2026 to February 2027 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (101300)**

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Risk and Assurance Review Timetable from March 2026 to February 2027.

**Resolved**

*That the report "Risk and Assurance Review Timetable from March 2026 to February 2027" be received.*

**Councillors Worsley / Julian  
CARRIED**

**11 Report to Management on the Audit for the year ended 30 June 2025 (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (201000)**

Committee discussed the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering Report to Management on the Audit for the year ended 30 June 2025.

**Comments from Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services:**

- This is a report to management and is a summary of the report. The governance report was received at the previous committee meeting.
- All recommendations from the report have been put in place.

**Resolved**

*That the report "Report to Management on the Audit for the year ended 30 June 2025" be received.*

12 **Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer**

*Chief Executive Officer closed the meeting with a karakia | prayer at 1.57pm*

P Jones

**Chairperson**

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## Minutes Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee – 19 February 2026

Details of Meeting:	<b>EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY JOINT COMMITTEE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ONLINE, ON THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2026, COMMENCING AT 13:15 PM.</b>
Present:	Mayor Nándor Tánczos - Whakatāne District Council (Chairperson), Deputy Mayor Julie Jukes- Whakatāne District Council  <i>Via Teams:</i>  Mayor David Moore – Ōpōtiki District Council, Deputy Mayor Maude Maxwell - Ōpōtiki District Council, Councillor Sarah Jane McCorkindale – Bay of Plenty Regional Council, and Deputy Mayor Sela Kingi – Kawerau District Council
In Attendance:	Steven Perdia – Chief Executive, Whakatane District Council, Emlyn Hatch - General Manager People & Partnerships, Chirese Viljoen – Governance Service Manager, Whakatāne District Council  <i>Via Teams:</i>  Gae Finlay – Executive Assistant and Governance Lead, Opōtiki District Council, Namouta Poutasi – General Manager Strategy & Science, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Lee Barton – Economic & Community Development Manager, Kawerau District Council
Apologies:	Mayor Faylene Tunui – Kawerau District Council and Morgan Godfery – Chief Executive, Kawerau District Council

### 1 KARAKIA

Mayor Tánczos (Chairperson) formally opened the extraordinary meeting of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee, held online, at 1:15 pm with a karakia. Members from across the Eastern Bay of Plenty were welcomed

### 2 MEETING NOTICES

The Chairperson noted technical issues with the live stream and confirmed the meeting recording would be uploaded to the Whakatāne District Council website following the meeting.

### 3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from members who advised they were available to attend from 1:30 pm; however, due to the meeting start time being brought forward to 1:10 pm, they were unable to be present.

#### 4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

NIL

**Attendance:** General Manager People and Partnership (Whakatāne District Council) entered the meeting at 1:18 pm.

#### 5 REPORTS

##### 5.1 Joint Submission on Simplifying Local Government

Refer to pages 1-7 of the tabled report.

Moved Mayor Moore / Seconded Deputy Mayor Maxwell

##### **RESOLVED:**

THAT the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee:

1. **RECEIVE** the report titled “Eastern Bay Joint Committee – Submission on Simplifying Local Government”.
2. **APPROVE** the Eastern Bay Joint Committee submission on *Simplifying Local Government*.
3. **NOTE** that the amendment to section 14, bullet point (4) within “Ensuring Fair and Balanced Decision-making in the CTB” to include Whakatāne District Council alongside Kawerau and Ōpōtiki District Councils, and any other agreed minor changes or corrections, will be incorporated before lodgement.

##### **CARRIED**

Moved Mayor Tánczos / Seconded Mayor Moore

##### **RESOLVED:**

THAT the EBOP Joint Committee **agree** to hold its next ordinary meeting at Whakatāne District Council on Thursday, 30 April 2026, with a further meeting scheduled for October 2026.

##### **CARRIED**

##### **ACTIONS:**

1. Whakatāne District Council Governance Services staff to:
  - Circulate the minutes and associated actions from the 19 December 2025 meeting to members for review and confirmation at the next ordinary meeting.
  - Seek approval from the relevant councils for the Joint Committee resolution to update the current Terms of Reference.
2. Joint Committee Members to:
  - Advise Whakatāne District Council Governance of any required corrections to member appointments that do not align with the 19 February extraordinary meeting agenda.

The extraordinary meeting closed at 1:23 pm with a Karakia lead by Mayor Tánczos.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON



# Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum

## Open Minutes

- Commencing:** Thursday 12 March 2026, 9:43am
- Venue:** Council Chambers, Regional House, 1 Elizabeth Street, Tauranga
- Chairperson:** Rotorua Lakes Council - Mayor Tania Tapsell
- Deputy Chairperson:** Whakatāne District Council - Mayor Nándor Tánzos
- Members:** Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Chair Matemoana McDonald  
Kawerau District Council - Mayor Faylene Tunui  
Ōpōtiki District Council - Mayor David Moore  
Tauranga City Council - Mayor Mahé Drysdale  
Western Bay of Plenty District Council - Mayor James Denyer
- Alternate Members:** Bay of Plenty Regional Council – Deputy Chair Glenn Dougal  
Tauranga City Council – Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular
- In Attendance:** Staff:  
Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) Chief Executive - Fiona McTavish  
Kawerau District Council Chief Executive - Morgan Godfery  
Ōpōtiki District Council Chief Executive – Stace Lewer  
Rotorua Lakes Council Chief Executive – Andrew Moraes  
Tauranga City Council Chief Executive – Marty Grenfell  
Western Bay of Plenty District Council Acting Chief Executive – Miriam Taris  
Whakatāne District Council Chief Executive – Steven Perdia  
Karen Aspey – General Manager People & Leadership, BOPRC  
Namouta Poutasi – General Manager Strategy & Science, BOPRC  
Adele Hadfield – Strategy and Planning Manager, BOPRC  
Dean Howie – Programme Manager, Regional Economic Development, BOPRC  
Steve Groom – Manager Governance, BOPRC  
Coral Hair – Committee Advisor, BOPRC
- Apologies:** Taupō District Council - Mayor John Funnell  
Taupō District Council Chief Executive – Julie Gardyne

## **Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council Chief Executive Fiona McTavish chaired the meeting until the Chairperson was appointed.**

Chief Executive McTavish reminded those present that this meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be made available on the Bay of Plenty Regional Council website [Mayoral Forum - 12 March 2026](#)

### **1. Opening Karakia**

A karakia was provided by Reuben Gardiner, Senior Advisor, Te Amorangi, Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

### **2. Apologies**

#### **Moved**

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Accepts the apology from Taupō District Council Mayor John Funnell and Chief Executive – Julie Gardyne.**

[Tunui/Denyer]  
CARRIED

### **3. Procedural Matters**

#### **3.1 Items not on the Agenda**

None

#### **3.2. Order of Business**

No changes

#### **3.3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

None declared

### **4. Minutes**

#### **Minutes to be Confirmed**

#### **4.1 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 3 July 2025**

#### **Resolved**

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Confirms the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 3 July 2025 as a true and correct record.**

[Tapsell/Drysdale]  
[CARRIED]

## 5. Reports

### Decisions Required

#### 5.1 Appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for the 2025-2028 Triennium

Correction to report:

Paragraph 1.1. stating that the BOP Mayoral Forum was an informal forum was incorrect and should read:

*“Until the 2025-2028 triennium, the Mayoral Forum was an informal forum established under the Triennial Agreement but was not a joint committee established under the LGA or other legislation and previously as a collaborative leadership group, it did not exercise formal delegated authority. However, the new Terms of Reference establishes the Mayoral Forum as a joint committee of partner councils with delegated authority and the voting systems under Clause 25, Schedule 7 of the LGA applies to the appointment of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.”*

### Resolved

**That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for the 2025-2028 Triennium, noting the correction in paragraph 1.1.**
- 2 Chooses System B in electing the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.**

**[Drysdale/Tunui]  
[CARRIED]**

Nominations were called for the position of Chairperson:

Mayor Tania Tapsell  
Nominated by: Mayor David Moore  
Seconded by: Mayor Mahé Drysdale

No further nominations were received.

### Resolved

**That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:**

- 3 Appoints Mayor Tania Tapsell as the Chairperson of the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum for the 2025-2028 Triennium.**

**[Moore/Drysdale]  
[CARRIED]**

Chief Executive McTavish **vacated** the chair and Mayor Tania Tapsell **assumed** the chair.

Nominations were called for the position of Deputy Chairperson:

Mayor Nándor Tánczos  
Nominated by: Mayor Tania Tapsell  
Seconded by: Mayor Faylene Tunui

No further nominations were received.

## **Resolved**

**That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:**

- 4 Appoints Mayor Nándor Tánczos as the Deputy Chairperson of the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum for the 2025-2028 Triennium.**

[Tapsell/Tunui]  
[CARRIED]

## **5.2 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Triennial Agreement 2025-2028, Terms of Reference and Protocol for RMA Policy and Plans**

Presenter: Fiona McTavish, Chief Executive, Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

### **Key Points:**

- The 2025-2028 Triennial Agreement, endorsed by all partner councils, was the main framework to guide collaboration and co-operation between local authorities within the Bay of Plenty region.
- The Triennial Agreement may need to be amended by agreement during the triennium, once any relevant implications from the Resource Management and Local Government reform were considered and in force.
- The new Terms of Reference for the Mayoral Forum changed its status from an informal forum into a joint committee.
- The approach by councils and the Department of Internal Affairs (as signatories) had been to roll over the existing Protocol for Bay of Plenty RMA Policy and Plans.
- Proposed changes to any of the documents would need to go back to each partner council for their approval.

### **Key Points - Staff:**

- Considered that the best time for a review of the Triennial Agreement was when the legislation had been enacted and this would be noted as a future action.

## Resolved

### That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 **Receives the report, Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Triennial Agreement 2025-2028, Terms of Reference and Protocol for RMA Policy and Plans.**
- 2 **Notes that the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Triennial Agreement 2025-2028 in Attachment 1 was endorsed and signed by all Bay of Plenty local government councils separately at their meetings in December 2025 and February 2026.**
- 3 **Notes that the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Terms of Reference in Attachment 2 was endorsed by the majority of Bay of Plenty local government councils separately at their meetings in February 2026.**
- 4 **Notes the proposed approach by councils and the Department of Internal Affairs to roll-over the existing *Protocol for Bay of Plenty RMA Policy and Plans*, in Attachment 3, with any necessary updates to be made to the RMA Planning Protocol or process once the Resource Management reforms have been confirmed and are in force.**

[Tunui/Tánczos]

[CARRIED]

## 5.3 Shared Services in Bay of Plenty Region

Presenter: Stace Lewer, Chief Executive, Ōpōtiki District Council.

### Key Points:

- Bay of Plenty Shared Services (BOPLASS) provided a strong foundation on which future shared services opportunities could be explored.
- A wide range of services could be considered suitable for shared services including:
  - high-cost activities such as waste services and roading.
  - combining building consent authorities (BCA's) noting this was supported by central government's actions to make it easier for regional BCA's to be established.
  - corporate functions such as Information Technology, rates and debt collection, governance services, regulatory services and animal control.
- Apart from potential cost savings, other benefits included improving resilience of the service, improving the capability and capacity of staff and potentially providing a better customer experience.
- When considering which shared services to proceed, a pragmatic starting point was to initially set objectives and consider how shared services would achieve these objectives.
- Several barriers were recognised from past experience including upfront costs in exploring how shared services would work in practice and developing cost benefit cases.
- Acknowledged the heightened focus on shared services with the central government's Simplifying Local Government Draft Proposal.
- Central government's rapid review of regional council functions would link into this shared services review.
- A list of potential shared service initiatives would be presented to a future Mayoral Forum to allow the Forum to consider appetite, priorities and principles for any future work in this area.

**Key Points - Members:**

- It was proposed that a conversation be held on major functions and where these should sit i.e. centrally, regionally or locally.
- Agreed that the discussion on functions and where they sat would be informed by the central government's work.
- Recognised that councils had worked together in the past where logical and in areas of commonality.
- Acknowledged that improving efficiencies would not necessarily lead to direct cost savings.
- Structured analysis needed to include social and community. An example of hyper localising services was provided with Whakatāne District Council devolving animal control services in smaller communities which had led to much safer communities as staff lived and worked in these communities.
- Local Government New Zealand conference would be hosted in Rotorua in July 2026 and there was a potential to influence the agenda to focus on national shared services opportunities.
- The Chair acknowledged the desire to have a further conversation on shared services.

**Key Points - Staff:**

- A multi-criteria analysis would need to be developed to assess the benefits and costs of pursuing shared services. Weightings could be attached to each criterion, such as cost efficiencies, social and environmental outcomes. For example, a larger delivery model for waste services may impact negatively on local delivery providers and an element of local preference may be weighted higher.
- An important consideration in a structured process was to determine the time frame within which results would be realised as results would vary greatly with a 1-2 year time horizon compared to a 10 year one.

**Resolved****That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Shared Services in Bay of Plenty Region.**
- 2 Notes that a list of potential shared services initiatives will be presented to a future Mayoral Forum.**

[Tunui/Moore]  
[CARRIED]

**5.4 Regional Spatial Planning**

*Presentation - Regional Spatial Planning* ⇄

Presenters: Namouta Poutasi, General Manager, Strategy and Science and Adele Hadfield, Strategy and Planning Manager, BOPRC.

**Key Points:**

- Was taking a 'no regrets' approach, focussing on getting ready for when the legislation took effect, expected in September 2026, preparing evidence, alignment, direction and building on existing work, undertaking a data stock take and gap analysis.

- The three existing sub-regional spatial plans provided a strong foundation to build on and Bay of Plenty was one of few regions that were advanced in the spatial planning process.
- Seeking endorsement of the draft high-level Regional Spatial Planning (RSP) programme plan and the proposed approach, which emphasised the importance of sub-regional spatial planning within a wider regional framework. Before work would come to the Mayoral Forum, it would be considered by the current joint committees, SmartGrowth, Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee and Rotorua Future Development Committee.
- The proposed approach would be in place until the legislation was enacted. Options paper would then be brought to the Mayoral Forum in the post-enactment phase.
- The focus of the pre-enactment phases 1-2 (the period between now and mid 2026) was on preparation, technical analysis, programme planning, scoping and relationship building, with reduced risk of having to repeat or discard work.
- The shift in philosophy of the new legislation to enabling growth within constraints was in contrast to the previous legislation that identified where growth would occur. Staff were looking at where there might be risk in the sub-regional plans for pressure outside current growth settlement patterns.
- Outlined key risks and dependencies and mitigation measures proposed.

#### **Key Points - Members:**

- Based on Ōpōtiki District Council's recent experience, suggested there was opportunity to gain direction and endorsement from Minister Bishop on the current proposed approach, highlighting the advancement of the sub-regional spatial plans.
- Queried whether the regional spatial plan included social issues, for example dealing with an ageing population, as well as focusing on economic growth.
- Acknowledged the work completed and the foresight of staff.
- Acknowledged the recent community engagement on the sub-regional spatial plans and recognised the potential for consultation fatigue, queried the timing of community engagement on the regional spatial plan.

#### **In Response to Questions:**

- The stocktake report would be ready by mid-March 2026. One example of a 'no regrets' approach was undertaking a natural hazards assessment across the region to comply with the mandatory matters' requirements in the legislation.
- Recognised the importance of inter-regional relationships but the programme plan did not align with other regions' spatial planning processes.
- The process agreements enabled conversations around what matters were considered at a regional or local level. This work was being undertaken now as part of the preparation work prior to enactment.
- Community engagement would happen post enactment of the legislation by the Spatial Planning Committee.

#### **Items for Staff Follow Up:**

- Mayor Tapsell and BOPRC staff to draft a letter to Minister Bishop seeking direction on and endorsement for the region's current proposed approach which emphasised the importance of sub-regional spatial planning within a wider regional framework and highlighting the advancement of the sub-

regional spatial plans. Feedback from members would be sought before the letter was finalised.

- Regional Spatial Plan to include the holistic lens that was a feature of the sub-regional spatial plans in terms of social issues such as an ageing population.

## Resolved

### That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Spatial Planning.**
- 2 Notes the importance of the foundational 'no regrets' work in 2026, to prepare for short Regional Spatial Plan statutory times.**
- 3 Endorses the proposed high level RSP programme, noting further work is being undertaken with staff across Councils to develop a more detailed programme.**
- 4 Endorses the approach of including the role of sub-regional planning within the wider regional framework.**
- 5 Notes that several details are yet to be determined and will be revisited post the release of the Planning Bill expected in mid-2026.**

[McDonald/Tunui]  
[CARRIED]

10:50 am – the meeting **adjourned**.

11:10 am – the meeting **reconvened**.

## 5.5 Waikato and Bay of Plenty Cross Regional Waste Strategy and Waste Infrastructure Project

*Presentation - Waikato and Bay of Plenty Cross Regional Waste Strategy* ⇨

Dean Howie, Programme Manager, Regional Economic Development, BOPRC.

### **Key Points:**

- Waikato and Bay of Plenty Cross Regional Waste Strategy represented a significant collaborative step toward addressing shared and growing challenges associated with waste generation, disposal, and resource recovery across both regions.
- The Waste Strategy was the first deliverable of a wider project, development of cross-regional systems and Infrastructure Plan.
- The project was managed by the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) with support from BOPRC. To date, 10 local councils from across both regions had signed partnership agreements.
- The Strategy was jointly funded by WRC, BOPRC and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE).
- Designed to seek collaboration with local government, tangata whenua, industry and communities to co-create solutions and foster a resilient regional approach to waste minimisation and resource stewardship.
- Actions in the Waste Strategy dealt with disaster waste.
- The Infrastructure Plan included proposals for systems and infrastructure such as compost hubs, community-based resource recovery centres, and other waste systems and infrastructure,

- The Infrastructure Plan would look at geographic/population areas rather than local authority boundaries to determine the best locations for hubs, with the aim of reducing transport emissions as well as the significant transport costs to councils for managing waste.
- Outlined upcoming milestones from options development in April 2026 through to implementation in 2027.
- Sought endorsement from the Mayoral Forum for the Cross Regional Waste Strategy.

#### **Key Points - Members:**

- Appreciated the collaborative work on the Waste Strategy.
- Supported collective action on issues that were difficult for individual councils to address independently.
- Recognised that a regional landfill in the Bay of Plenty would require commitment and collaboration and that the Mayoral Forum was the vehicle to address this issue.
- Opportunities to reduce waste and resource recovery were often limited by a lack of clear markets and acknowledged that work was underway in the next phase of the strategy to consider this aspect of the waste stream.
- Consideration of the best locations for waste infrastructure would require buy-in from councils and consideration of contributions and cross boundary discussions. E.g. the Ecogas facility in Reporoa that turned food waste to bioenergy bordered both Rotorua Lakes and Taupō District councils.
- Requested that each council consider its current waste contracts, which were usually for a 10-year period, and deliberately delay entering any long-term renewal of those contracts until a strategic conversation had occurred. A resolution requesting chief executives to report back on future waste commitments was passed.

#### **In Response to Questions:**

- Phase 2 of Plan would include where waste infrastructure was located, and it was too early to consider locations at this stage.
- Staff would continue to work collaboratively; prepare business cases and seek funding and continue focusing on the circular economy and reducing waste.
- Ultimately, a decision on a regional landfill and other waste infrastructure would come to councils for approval and would be included in the 2030-2040 long term plans.

### **Resolved**

#### **That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Waikato and Bay of Plenty Cross Regional Waste Strategy and Waste Infrastructure Project.**
- 2 Endorses the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Cross Regional Waste Strategy.**
- 3 Requests that chief executives consider future waste contract commitments and report back.**

**[Drysdale/ Denyer]  
[CARRIED]**

### **Information Only**

## 5.6 Local Government Reform - submission Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum to Simplifying Local Government Proposal

### Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Local Government Reform - submission Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum to Simplifying Local Government Proposal.

[Tapsell/Moore]  
[CARRIED]

## 5.7 Cadence of Reorganisation

Presented By: Mayor Mahé Drysdale.

### Key Points - Mayor Mahé Drysdale:

- Considered there was an opportunity to 'get ahead' of the central government's legislative framework.
- Messaging from Ministers advised that central government would be open to considering alternative proposals from regions, however that would mean being organised and acting rapidly.
- Taranaki was an example of this approach where the New Plymouth District Council and the Taranaki Regional Council were proposing integration.
- Asked the Forum members if they were prepared for the Bay of Plenty region to be a 'leader and mover' in this area.
- Acknowledged that the "how" would need further discussion.

### Key Points - Members:

- Some support was expressed for Mayor Drysdale's proposal to be proactive and get ahead of the local government reforms.
- Rotorua Lakes Council was exploring the option of potentially becoming a unitary authority.
- Important to 'make haste slowly' to bring communities along.
- Recognised that communities had struggled with central government reform and had often had a negative experience with these matters and there was a need for outcomes of local government reform to be equitable for all communities.
- Agreed to be open minded.
- Support for considering functions first and being more certain of direction of travel
- Recognised that many problems faced in communities were the responsibility of central government that were not been resolved.
- Important to seize the opportunity provided by central government's proposal to reorganise local government to develop a plan that would be better for the Bay of Plenty region. Whether or not this government's proposals came to fruition or if a different government was elected, it was necessary to maintain the pathway of working together, while understanding the complexity of issues and sub-regional concerns.

**Response - Mayor Mahé Drysdale:**

- Reiterated that it was two years before the Government's timeframe for reorganisation was applied, and while the final outcome did not have to be quick, a commitment to begin and start the conversation was needed.
- The key was to separate out function from form and representation.

**5.8 Homelessness Strategy: Proposal for a Mayors Taskforce for Homeless**

Presented By: Mayor Tania Tapsell

**Key Points - Mayor Tania Tapsell:**

- Advised that Rotorua Lakes Council was close to finalising a Homeless Strategy to deal with the day-to-day response to homelessness and to develop long-term prevention through a strategic/planning approach.
- Rotorua had become the 'poster child' for homelessness and emergency housing following the Covid-19 pandemic. Although contracted emergency housing ended in December 2025, homelessness was a continuing issue.
- Disturbed by some of the statistics uncovered, including cases of children as young as 12 living on the streets.
- Bringing mayors together could help break down barriers to information sharing and better co-ordinate responses. Each council was working towards solving complex homelessness issues on and it was important to join these efforts.
- The proposed Mayors Taskforce for Homelessness could support community-led solutions to improve social infrastructure, increase access to shelter and sustainable housing, engage with Māori and Pasifika communities, and identify initiatives aimed at preventing youth homelessness.
- With Rotorua hosting the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Conference in July 2026, it would provide an opportunity for a discussion on setting up a Mayors Taskforce, similar to the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs.

**Key Points - Members:**

- Expressed support for the Homeless Strategy being developed by Rotorua and for the establishment of the Mayors Taskforce for Homelessness and considered the LGNZ Conference to be a suitable vehicle for making the announcement.
- Acknowledged that responses to homelessness should not fall on local government and that in the current political climate central government was urging councils to "stick to their knitting". However, councils were often left to respond when central government action fell short. The issue of homelessness required community leadership and was therefore an issue to be addressed by mayors.
- The approach focussed on collaboration with existing departments and agencies, holding central government agencies to account and acting as a strong advocacy voice for the homeless.
- The Government's 'move-on' orders were seen as a temporary solution that did not deal with the root causes of homelessness.

- Recognised that homelessness was a complex and labour-intensive issue to resolve.
- Appreciated the lead taken by Rotorua Lakes Council and Mayor Tapsell.

## 6. Consideration of Items not on the Agenda

If time permitted at the conclusion of the meeting, an informal session on functions of local government would be held.

## 7. Closing Karakia

A karakia was provided by Mayor Tapsell.

**12:27 pm - the meeting closed.**

**CONFIRMED**

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Rotorua Lakes Council - Mayor Tania Tapsell  
Chairperson, Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum

# Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group

## Ngā Meneti Open Minutes

**Commencing:** Thursday 2 April 2026, 10:00am

**Venue:** Mataatua Room, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 5 Quay Street, Whakatane and via Zoom (Audio visual meeting)

### Heamana

**Chairperson:** Leith Comer - Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihī Trust (TMoNRT)

### Heamana Tuarua

**Deputy Chairperson:** Dr Pouroto Ngaropo - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa (TRoNA)

### Ngā Kopounga

**Members:** Cr Anna Grayling - Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana (BOPRC) (Via Zoom)  
Nicki Douglas - Alternate, Ngāti Mākinō Iwi Authority (NMIA) (Via Zoom)  
Mayor Faylene Tunui - Kawerau District Council (KDC)  
Deputy Mayor Sela Kingi - Alternate (KDC)  
Tiipene Marr - Alternate (TMoNRT)  
Jade King-hazel - Department of Conservation  
Manu Glen - Alternate, TRoNA  
Deliah Balle - Tūhourangi Tribal Authority (Via Zoom)

### Te Hunga i Tae Ake In Attendance:

BOPRC: Chris Ingle - General Manager Integrated Catchments, Herewini Simpson - General Manager Strategic Engagement (Acting), Stephen Lamb - Natural Resources Policy Manager, Sharon Ainsworth - Project Manager, Nassah Rolleston-Steed - Principal Advisor, Policy & Planning, Kerry Brown - Kaitohutohu Taiao Matua - Senior Advisor, Te Amorangi, Shari Kameta - Committee Advisor  
Kawerau District Council: Morgan Godfery - Chief Executive, Kaumatua Te Haukakawa Te Rire - Cultural Advisor  
TMoNRT: Darcy Stoneham - Assistant Environmental Manager  
Linda Falwasser - Advisor, Iwi Collective (Via Zoom)  
Presenters: As listed in the minutes

### Ngā Hōnea Apologies:

Awhi Awhimate - NMIA  
Cr Gregg Brown - Rotorua Lakes Council  
Mayor Nándor Tánčzos - Whakatāne District Council (WDC)

Cr Lesley Immink (Alternate, WDC)  
Cr Malcolm Campbell (Alternate, BOPRC)  
Cyrus Hingston (Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust)  
Jim Schuster (Ngāti Tūwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust)

## 1. Karakia Whakatuwhera Opening Karakia

A karakia was provided by Tiipene Marr.

Mihi/Reply: Pouroto Ngaropo/Cr Iwi Te Whau.

### Chairperson's Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which marked an important milestone for the Strategy Group to consider the approval of the draft proposed Strategy Document for public release.

## 2. Ngā Hōnea Apologies

### Resolved

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

- 1 Accepts the apologies from Awhi Awhimate, Cr Gregg Brown, Cr Malcolm Campbell, Mayor Nándor Tánczos, Cr Lesley Immink, Cyrus Hingston and Jim Schuster tendered at the meeting.

Ngaropo/Tunui  
CARRIED

## 3. Whakapuakanga o Ngā Take Whai Taha-Rua Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

## 4. Ngā Meneti Minutes

### Ngā Meneti a Ngā Komiti Minutes to be Received

#### 4.1 Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Minutes - 27 February 2026

### Resolved

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

- 1 Confirms the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Minutes - 27 February 2026 as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendment:

- **Minute item 8.2, Annual Plan and Long Term Plan Amendment Consultation (page 15 of the agenda): first bullet point under Key Points, amend 'to the end of April 2026' to 'to 2 April 2026'.**

**Ngaropo/Comer  
CARRIED**

### **Matters Arising**

- Page 10 of the agenda - noted that the apologies tendered by Kawerau District Council members were due to a meeting conflict with LGNZ's sector meeting and requested that the administering authority avoid these conflicts from reoccurring in the future.
- Minute item 8.2, page 15 of the agenda - requested clarity regarding the reference 'Council', which for the item discussed referred to 'Bay of Plenty Regional Council'.

## **5. Ngā Pūrongo Reports**

### **Ngā Whakatau e Hiahiatia Ana Decisions Required**

#### **5.1 Representation status of Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority**

Presented by: Steve Groom, Governance Manager (Via Zoom)

##### **Key Points - Staff:**

- The report provided advice to the Strategy Group to give effect to its 27 February 2026 decision to invite the representation of Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority onto the Strategy Group.

##### **Key Points - Chair:**

- The Chair noted similarly to Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation that the two iwi entities had not been appointed to the Strategy Group under the legislation, but had an important role to play and held statutory acknowledgements on the Tarawera Awa
- Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority had full voting rights as part of the Tarawera Awa Iwi Collective, who would represent their views and carry them forward to the Strategy Group.

### **Resolved**

#### **That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:**

- 1 Receives the report, Representation status of Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority;**
- 2 Agrees the status of Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority as non-voting advisors to the Strategy Group;**

- 3 **Confirms the appointments of Cyrus Hingston as the appointed advisor to the Strategy Group for Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust; and Deliah Balle as the appointed advisor to the Strategy Group for Tūhourangi Iwi Tribal Authority;**
- 4 **Notes that Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority representatives do not count towards the quorum;**
- 5 **Agrees that Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority may each appoint an alternate advisor/representative to the Strategy Group to attend meetings when the appointed advisor/representative cannot attend.**

**Ngaropo/Grayling  
CARRIED**

## 5.2 TARSG Project Team Decisions/Direction Report

*Presentation - Timeline and Adoption of Te Rautaki o Tarawera Strategy* ⇨

Presented by: Dr Frances Teinakore-Curtis – Project Manager  
Supported by Jane Kirk – Co-Governance Secretariat;  
Stephen Lamb – Natural Resources Policy Manager;  
Nassah Rolleston-Steed – Principal Advisor, Policy & Planning;  
Linda Falwasser – Advisor, Iwi Collective (via Zoom)

### **Key Points:**

- Acknowledged those that had contributed to the draft proposed Strategy Document, Te Rautaki o Tarawera (the Strategy)
- Outlined the proposed timeline for releasing the Strategy for submission through to final adoption in November 2026. Noted that the timeline allowed for graphic preparation of the document prior to its release
- Depending on the nature of submissions, the appointment of an independent hearing panel or commissioner may be recommended to avoid perceptions of conflict and/or to take into account tikanga Māori
- There was potential to expedite the process and adopt the Strategy Document earlier than November, depending on submissions and meeting schedules
- The team would analyse submissions and report back its recommendations to the Strategy Group meeting on 29 May 2026

10:45am – Jade King-hazel **left** the meeting.

- Advice regarding late submissions would be received post agenda publication, therefore would need to be tabled at the 29 May meeting
- The Project team would undertake targeted engagement (information sharing sessions) during the submissions period and requested that an Iwi Collective member attend these sessions to speak to the draft strategic objectives 7 – 9 of the Strategy Document
- At the previous meeting the Strategy Group had noted its comfort with draft strategic objectives 1 – 6 (refer Attachment 1)
- Sought approval of the report attachments, including the draft bridging statement and strategic objectives 7 – 9 outlined under Attachment 2.

### **Key Points - Members:**

- Supported the recommendations and proposed timeline, noting staff would report back to the Strategy Group meeting on 29 May 2026

- Considered all levels of Government should be supportive of the Crown's commitments under Treaty settlement legislation
- Questioned if an independent hearing panel was necessary given that a range of stakeholders had engaged in the Strategy's development, and considered it was important for this to be conveyed
- Regarding how the Strategy objectives would be upheld in water and land use activities, Ngāti Rangitihi were working hard with Central Government to ensure Treaty Settlement and Resource Management Act obligations are upheld in the Resource Management reform system.

**Items for Staff Follow Up:**

- Engage with Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority during the submission period to seek their tribal narratives to be included in the Strategy Document.

## **Resolved**

### **That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:**

- 1 Receives the report, TARSG Project Team Decisions/Direction Report;**  
**Ngaropo/Tunui  
CARRIED**
- 2 Adopts the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy - Te Rautaki o Tarawera - Restoring the mauri of Tarawera Awa ki Te Awa o Te Atua for public notification pursuant to the requirements of clause 140(1)(a) of the Ngāti Rangitihi Claims Settlement Act 2022;**
- 3 Confirms it is satisfied the requirements of the Ngāti Rangitihi Claims Settlement Act 2022, in particular section 139, relating to the preparation of the Strategy Document up to public notification stage, have been met;**
- 4 Adopts a 20 working day public submission period from Tuesday 28 April - Monday 25 May 2026;**
- 5 Delegates to the Group Manager Strategic Engagement BOPRC, in consultation with the Chair, ability to make operational decisions in support of the Project Team on the consultation and submission hearing process, and to make any associated recommendations to the Strategy Group for discussion and approval;**
- 6 Provide direction on the timeframe for the consultation and submission hearing process.**

**Douglas/Tunui  
CARRIED**

## **5.3 Budget and Expenditure Report and Guidelines**

*Tabled Document 1 - Addendum - Budget Forecast Alternative Option* ⇨

*Presentation - Budget Expenditure Report and Guidelines* ⇨

Presented by: Herewini Simpson – General Manager Strategic Engagement (Acting)

**Key Points:**

- The report was deferred from the 27 February meeting and provided an update on budget and expenses of the Crown funding contribution (\$788K) along with the proposed Finance and Expenses Guideline for approval
- An addendum was tabled (refer Tabled Document 1) that outlined for consideration the following:
  - Corrections to the current budget position and forecast (highlighted in yellow) referred under section 2.1.1 of the report (page 77 of the agenda)
  - Alternate budget scenario options to incorporate the Iwi Collective's proposal (carried over from 27 February meeting) seeking \$62K funding to support Crown engagement activities
  - Risks and concessions in regard to incorporating the Iwi Collective's proposal costs into the budget
- Noted that the Crown seed funding was limited to the development of the Strategy Document and did not include any funding for implementation.

11:37am – Jade King-hazel **entered** the meeting.

- The Finance and Expense Guideline formalised the fiscal responsibility and processes for administering the Crown funding on behalf of the Strategy Group.

**Key Points – Iwi Collective Advisors (Linda Falwasser and Nicki Douglas):**

- A key component of the Iwi Collective's proposal was to enable iwi to lead and engage with the Crown to ensure Treaty Settlement obligations are upheld as the Strategy Document progresses its way to completion. A part of this engagement was the ability to receive legal and advisory support and advice
- Acknowledged that the Finance and Expense Guidelines aligned with the purpose and functions of the Strategy Group
- Wished to ensure the guidelines also adhered to the Treaty Settlement Act and weren't too restrictive
- Noted that there had been no oversight of the work programme and that one had not been formed.

**Key Points - Members:**

- Considered that the Strategy Document wasn't complete until the action plan was completed which needed to be addressed with the Crown
- Noted that the Iwi Collective's contributions went back 18 months and that the budget proposal had not been brought to the Strategy Group sooner due to the hiatus of the local government elections
- Would need to look for additional funding to implement the actions
- Considered that the Crown had an obligation to provide additional funding as the original polluters of the Tarawera Awa.

**Resolved**

**That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:**

- 1 Receives the report, Budget and Expenditure Report and Guidelines.**
- 2 Approves the proposed Budget and Expenditure (Option 2) outlined in Tabled Document 1;**

**Ngaropo/Tunui  
CARRIED**

- 3 Approves the Tarawera Awa Restoration and Strategy Group Finance and Expenses Guidelines (Report Attachment 1).
- 4 Notes the willingness and appetite to align and work together to ensure what is in the Finance and Expenses Guidelines and the Ngāti Rangitihī Claims Settlement Act 2022 is aligned.

**Tunui/Ngaropo  
CARRIED**

12:07pm – Deliah Balle left the meeting.

## 6. Whakaaturanga Presentations

### 6.1 Bay of Plenty Regional Council 2026/27 Annual Plan and Long Term Plan Amendment Consultation

*Presentation - BOPRC Annual Plan 2026/27 and Long Term Plan Amendment* [⇒](#)

Presented by: Cr Anna Grayling (via Zoom), Cr Iwi Te Whau and Cr Sarah McCorkindale

#### **Key Points:**

- The presentation was requested as a follow-on from the report provided to the Strategy Group meeting on 27 February 2026
- In the current operating environment, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana (BOPRC) was inviting feedback on its draft 2026/27 Annual Plan and Long Term Plan amendment (AP/LTP) and strongly advocated for region-wide representation, incorporating a hills to harbour approach and continued delivery of its community funding programmes
- Outlined BOPRC's draft AP/LTP activities, key topics, budget and policy proposals and timeframes for consultation, submissions and hearings through to adoption
- Urged and invited partner members to make a submission on any issues of relevance, including feedback on ways to enhance and strengthen BOPRC's community outcome Te Ara Poutama in regard to partnering and supporting Māori capacity
- As today was the closing day for submissions on the AP/LTP, a brief summary could be lodged today with final detailed submission provided by 10 April or spoken to at the hearing
- Noted that a 'friend of the submitter service' was available to assist people to put together their submissions.

#### **In Response to Questions:**

- AP activities within the Kōhi constituency relating to Kānoa funded projects (refer PowerPoint presentation slide 6) comprised the management and maintenance of over \$400 million of flood protection assets, involving upgrades to canals, stopbanks and stage 3 of Project Future Proof in the Whakatāne CBD.
- BOPRC's (June 2024) decision to selldown its Port of Tauranga shares from 54% to 28% was to diversify and reduce risk across its investment portfolio.
- BOPRC would make decisions on its draft AP/LTP in June 2026.

- Regional spatial planning would help to inform future projects and mahi. Noted that BOPRC's Te Amorangi team would be engaging with iwi/hapū networks on this matter sometime in the future.

#### **Key Points - Members:**

- Sought more timely engagement and communication of quality information in BOPRC's consultation and engagement
- Noted that BOPRC had not allocated any funding to restore Te Awa o Te Atua or to contribute to Matatā's wastewater system reductions
- Supported a submission being made by the Iwi Collective to uplift and support the Strategy Group's draft strategic objectives, in particular strategic objective 1 within the newly adopted draft Strategy Document, noting alignment with BOPRC's values/community outcomes
- In support of members' comments, the Chair confirmed that a submission would be lodged by the Iwi Collective and Project team with the intent to speak to the submission
- Ngāti Mākinō would be making a submission and welcomed any comments from members to include on the Strategy Group's behalf. Ngāti Awa would also be putting forward a submission
- Welcomed a collective approach to developing a Regional Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy, noting that while BOPRC had a key role to play, there were others that could contribute in this space
- In regard to BOPRC's community outcome Te Ara Poutama, sought greater consideration for uplifting the different levels of leadership and mātauranga within iwi/hapū/whānau.

#### **Key Points - Project Team:**

- Work had been completed on development of catchment scale freshwater wetland restoration for Te Awa Te Atua to support a submission, particularly in relation to AP/LTP topics 2 and 3.
- A placeholder submission would be made to BOPRC for lodging a late submission by 10 April 2026.

## **7. Public Excluded Business Resolved in the Open**

### **7.1 Public Excluded Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Minutes - 27 February 2026**

During consideration of the previous agenda item and in the interest of time and a risk of failure of a quorum, the following resolution was passed in the open section of the meeting without further discussion.

#### **Resolved**

##### **That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:**

- 1 Confirms the Public Excluded Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Minutes - 27 February 2026 as a true and correct record.**

**Grayling/Comer  
CARRIED**

## 8. Consideration of Items not on the Agenda Nga Take Tomuri Hei Whakaaroaro

### 8.1 March 2026 Tuna fatality event at Tarawera River Mouth

*Tabled Document 2 - Interim update for Tarawera Restoration Strategy Group 1 April 2026* ⇨

*Tabled Document 3 - Ngāti Rangitihi memo 31.03.2026 - Tarawera Site Visit Key Notes (This Morning)* ⇨

Presented by: Chris Ingle, GM Integrated Catchments

#### **Key Points:**

- Provided a brief update regarding the fatality of approximately 100 shortfin tuna that had been discovered in proximity of the Tarawera river mouth by Department of Conservation staff on 30 March 2026
- Initial advice of the incident was provided to Strategy Group members by email on 31 March with further information circulated on 1 April 2026 (refer Tabled Documents 2 and 3)
- BOPRC were working with respective Strategy Group partner staff to investigate and find solutions to prevent the situation from reoccurring
- Would keep the Strategy Group updated on progress made.

#### **Key Points - Members:**

- Acknowledged recent weather events, resulting in flooding had coincided with the tuna heke (migration)
- Queried Council and agency processes to ensure all affected iwi/hapū were notified of relevant events and issues, which was noted and acknowledged
- Advised that Ian Tarei and his team were involved and investigating solutions to create safe tuna passage following the event.

## 9. Chairperson's closing remarks

On behalf of the Strategy Group acknowledged the tremendous work of the Project team, staff and advisors.

## 10. Karakia Kati Closing Karakia

A karakia was provided by Pouroto Ngaropo.

**1:05pm - the meeting closed.**

**CONFIRMED**

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Leith Comer  
Chairperson  
Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group



**Meeting** Council

**Meeting Date:** 29 April 2026

**Subject:** Her Worship the Mayor's Report

**File No.** 101400

## 1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline meetings, functions and events that I have hosted, attended and/or participated in for the period Thursday, 19 March 2026 to Wednesday 22 April 2026.

March 2026	
Thu 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting re: Eastern Bay of Plenty Community Foundation - Disaster Relief Fund Proposal with Eastern BOP Mayors and Chief Executives, held at the Whakatāne District Council.</li> </ul>
Fri 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attended the opening of the new CDS (Chemical Destruction Services) refrigerant facility with Minister for Conservation and Māori Development Hon. Tama Potaka, MP for East Cape Dana Kirkpatrick, Labour List MP Hon. Jo Luxton, KDC Elected Members, KDC Iwi Liaison / Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa Te Rire, senior leadership team and local Kawerau businesses, held on Paora Street.</li> <li>Attended the opening of the new TOPP2 Geothermal Power Plant with Ngāti Tūwharetoa mai Kawerau ki te Tai, Eastland Generation and Obayashi Corporation, Minister for Trade and Investment Hon. Todd McClay, Minister for Conservation and Māori Development Hon. Tama Potaka, MP for East Cape Dana Kirkpatrick, Labour List MP Hon. Jo Luxton, Mayor Tanscos of Whakatāne, Mayor Moore of Ōpōtiki, Councillors Mc Corkindale and Te Whau of BOPRC, KDC Elected Members, KDC Iwi Liaison / Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa Te Rire and local Kawerau businesses, held at the TOPP2 Power Plant off Spencer Avenue.</li> </ul>
Mon 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attended the Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora Kaumātua Emergency Ambassador pōwhiri, with Kaumātua   Elders of Kawerau and Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora kaimahi   staff, held at Rautahi Marae.</li> </ul>
Tue 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chaired the RLC, KDC, WDC &amp; ODC LWDW WCCO Exploration Working Group meeting, hosted at Firmin Lodge.</li> <li>Meeting with Technical Manager for Essity Ian Sheperd re: general catch up, held in the Mayor's office.</li> <li>Attended the Horizon Energy Customer Engagement Dinner with CE Godfery and key Horizon Energy Group stakeholders, held at CIGOL Restaurant, Whakatāne.</li> </ul>
Wed 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ordinary Council Meeting – Chaired by Mayor Tunui. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receipt of Council Minuets</li> <li>Receipt of Regional Minuets</li> <li>Her Worship the Mayor's Report</li> <li>Draft Plan Change 5 (Boundary Re-organisation) approval for community feedback</li> <li>Local Governance Statement</li> <li>Proposed Budget Overview for Annual Plan 2026/27</li> <li><a href="https://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/sites/www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/files/documents/vent-calendar/council_agenda_2026.03.25.pdf">https://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/sites/www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/files/documents/vent-calendar/council_agenda_2026.03.25.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Attended the Community Open Day and Blessing for the Stoneham Park Housing Development, held on Stoneham Park.</li> <li>Online ZOOM with LGNZ members re: Te Maruata Monthly Whānui, held in the Mayor's office.</li> </ul>

Thu 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online ZOOM with Minister for Finance Nicola Willis and Minister for Local Government Simon Watts re: National Fuel Crisis, held in the Mayor's office.</li> <li>• Online ZOOM re: CDEM Joint Committee briefing update, held in the Mayor's office.</li> </ul>
Fri 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chaired the LGNZ Zone 2 (Waikato and BOP Council's) meeting, attended by Deputy Mayor Kingi, Cr Apiata, Cr Dowie, Cr Leokava-Taani and Cr Hill, held at the Mighty Domain at Lake Karāpiro.</li> </ul>
Mon 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk and Assurance Meeting – Chaired by Independent Member Phillip Jones, held in the Council Chambers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Confirmation of Audit and Risk Committee Minutes</li> <li>○ Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report for period – 1 January 2026 to 28 February 2026</li> <li>○ Local Implementation of the National Fuel Plan</li> <li>○ Council Bylaw and Policy Review Update</li> <li>○ Annual Plan Performance for the six months ended 31 December 2025</li> <li>○ Treasury Report from 31 December 2025 to 28 February 2026</li> <li>○ Risk and Assurance Timetable from March 2026 to February 2027</li> <li>○ Report to Management on the Audit for year ended 30 June 2025</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/sites/www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/files/documents/vent-calendar/risk_assurance_agenda_-_2026.03.30.pdf">https://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/sites/www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/files/documents/vent-calendar/risk_assurance_agenda_-_2026.03.30.pdf</a></p>
Tue 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended the 'Working Together to Support Kawerau Rangatahi and Community Safety' workshop, hosted by Oranga Tamariki, chaired by Deputy Mayor Kingi with local organisations and Central Government Agencies, held in the Concert Chambers.</li> <li>• Invited as the BOP CDEM Chair to participate in the recruitment of the EMBOP Director / Regional Manager role as a member of the interview panel, held at Cameron Road, Tauranga.</li> </ul>
<b>April 2026</b>	
Wed 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended Day 2 of the recruitment of the EMBOP Director / Regional Manager, held at Cameron Road in Tauranga.</li> </ul>
Thu 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended the Tarawera Awa Restoration meeting with Iwi Liaison / Cultural Advisor Te Haukākawa Te Rire, held at BOPRC in Whakatāne. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public Forum</li> <li>○ Order of Business</li> <li>○ Confirmation of Minutes</li> <li>○ Representation status of Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust and Tūhourangi Tribal Authority</li> <li>○ TARSG Project Team Decisions/Direction Report</li> <li>○ Budget and Expenditure Report and Guidelines</li> <li>○ Bay of Plenty Regional Council 2026/27 Annual Plan and Long Term Plan Amendment Consultation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><a href="https://infocouncil.boprc.govt.nz/Open/2026/04/TARSG_20260402_AGN_5100_AT.PDF">https://infocouncil.boprc.govt.nz/Open/2026/04/TARSG_20260402_AGN_5100_AT.PDF</a></p>
Tue 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended the pōwhiri for the incoming Manahautū   CEO for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, Mike Panapa, held at Te Mānuka Tūtahi marae, Whakatāne.</li> </ul>
Wed 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected Member Briefing – Chaired by Deputy Mayor Kingi, held in the Council Chambers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public EV Charging Proposal – Kawerau isite Visitor Information Centre</li> <li>○ Project Revamp (Ron Hardie / Skate Park) Update</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Informal Community Safety Meeting with Deputy Mayor Kingi and CE Godfery – Chaired by Mayor Tunui, held in the Council Committee Room.</li> </ul>
Thu 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constituent meeting with the Ex-Navelmen's Club representatives re: public holiday operations, pub licence and rates, held in the Mayor's office.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended the Horizon Energy Group Senior Management Strategic Presentation alongside the Economic Development Steering Group committee, held in the Council Chambers.</li> <li>• Travelled to Wellington from Rotorua Airport for the LGNZ National Council Meeting as the Rural Sector representative.</li> </ul>
Fri 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGNZ National Council in person meeting, held at the Greater Wellington Regional Council, Cuba Street, Wellington.</li> </ul>
Mon 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended the 2026/2027 Annual Plan Engagement Hui   Meeting with KADAP alongside Deputy Mayor Kingi, Cr Apiata, Cr Leokava-Taani, Cr Worsley and Cr Dowie, held in the Concert Chambers.</li> <li>• Catch-up with Managers Butler and Humberstone and Mayoral Aide Rogers re: Annual Plan engagement prep, held in the Mayor's office.</li> </ul>
Tue 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended the Annual Plan engagement session with Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Settlement Trust with Deputy Mayor Kingi, Iwi Liaison / Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa Te Rire, Managers Butler and Humberstone, held at Ngāti Tūwharetoa Settlement Trust, Parimahana Drive, Kawerau.</li> </ul>
Wed 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online 8am ZOOM with LGNZ re: key discussions on the fuel crisis and briefing on upcoming meeting, held in the Mayor's office.</li> <li>• Regulatory and Services Meeting – chaired by Deputy Mayor and Chair Kingi, held in Council Chambers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public Forum</li> <li>○ Action Schedule</li> <li>○ Monthly Report - Regulatory and Planning Services</li> <li>○ Monthly Report - Finance and Corporate Services</li> <li>○ Monthly Report - Operations and Services</li> <li>○ Monthly Report - Economic and Community Development</li> <li>○ Monthly Report – Communication and Engagement</li> </ul> </li> <li> <a href="https://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/sites/www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/files/documents/event-calendar/rs_agenda_2026.04.15.pdf">https://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/sites/www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/files/documents/event-calendar/rs_agenda_2026.04.15.pdf</a> </li> <li>• Online 4pm ZOOM with LGNZ re: key discussions on the fuel crisis and briefing on upcoming meeting, held in the Mayor's office.</li> </ul>
Thu 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone conversation with BOP Police Area Commander / Superintendent Will Loughrin regarding unfolding incident along the Tarawera Awa   River.</li> <li>• Phone Interview with Stuff.co.nz regarding the unfolding incident and first responders' activity along the Tarawera Awa   River.</li> <li>• Phone conversation with Senior Executive Assistant to the Mayor and CEO Pari Maxwell regarding KDC messaging of the unfolding incident near the Tarawera Awa   River with our Kawerau community.</li> <li>• BOP CDEM Joint Committee Meeting – Chaired by Mayor Tunui, held at Whakatāne District Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public Forum</li> <li>○ Order of Business</li> <li>○ Declaration of Conflict of Interest</li> <li>○ Confirmation of Meeting Minutes</li> <li>○ Letter of Rescindment Rotorua Lakes Council</li> <li>○ Letter of Rescindment Tauranga City Council</li> <li>○ Schedule One Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Appointed Controllers 16 April 2026</li> <li>○ Schedule One Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Appointed Recovery Managers 16 April 2026</li> <li>○ Draft BOPCDEM Group Annual Plan 26-27</li> <li>○ WBOPDC signed Local Recovery Framework 2025 Addendum to Group Recovery Framework</li> <li>○ Eastern Bay of Plenty Response Model: Future Direction</li> <li>○ Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Tropical Depression 05F Recovery Update</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Change to the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Training KPI Measurement Approach</li> <li>○ Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Training KPI Reporting</li> <li>○ Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Office Annual Plan Performance Monitoring Quarterly (Q2) Report 2025-2026</li> <li>○ National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Update Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Joint Committee - April 2026</li> <li>○ Verbal Update: Director, Emergency Management Bay of Plenty <a href="https://infocouncil.boprc.govt.nz/Open/2026/04/CDEM_20260416_AGN_50_83_AT.PDF">https://infocouncil.boprc.govt.nz/Open/2026/04/CDEM_20260416_AGN_50_83_AT.PDF</a></li> </ul>
Fri 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting with National East Cape MP Dana Kirkpatrick re: general catch-up and update on the impacts of Cyclone Vaianu and Stoneham Park residential development, held in the Mayor's office.</li> <li>● In-agreement with the whānau   families of the two sons lost along the Tarawera Awa   River, Council invited the community of Kawerau to share messages of love and support at a memorial area on the Boyce Park Judo Club side of the Tarawera Awa   River with Iwi Liaison / Cultural Advisor Koro Te Haukakawa Te Rire, Senior Leadership Managers, KDC staff members, community members and rangatahi of Kawerau.</li> </ul>
Sun 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attended the Tangihanga   Funerals of the two sons lost along the Tarawera Awa   River, Paul Lloyd and Luti Mafi, to carry the communities memorial tributes of flowers and messages of support and love with Pastor Mark Kingi, Elected Members, Senior Leadership Managers, Staff and their families, held at Rautahi marae and River Road, Kawerau.</li> </ul>
Tue 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attended the RLC, KDC, WDC &amp; ODC LWDW WCCO Exploration Working Group meeting, with Manager Nel and Deputy Mayor Kingi and CE Godfery in attendance online, held at Rotorua Lakes Council.</li> </ul>
Wed 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Elected Member and Senior Leadership Team karakia following the passing of our two sons of Kawerau lost along the Tarawera Awa   River with Iwi Liaison / Cultural Advisor Te Haukakawa Te Rire, held in the Council Chambers.</li> <li>● Attended the 2026/2027 Annual Plan Engagement Hui   Meeting with Elected Members and Senior Leadership Team, held at Rautahi Marae.</li> </ul>

## 2 Mayoral Correspondence

<b>March 2026</b>	
Thu 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Email received from Aaron Rangihika re: radio interview on 23 March with Radio Waatea, inviting information on upcoming Council projects.</li> </ul>
Sat 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Email received on be-half of Minister for Local Government Simon Watts re: government action on Dog Control.</li> </ul>
Mon 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Invitation received from Jo Coughlan – Chair of New Zealand Chinese Language Week, inviting Mayor's to take part in the nationwide Chinese Language Week from 29 June to 5 July 2026.</li> </ul>
Tue 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Email received from LGNZ President Rehette Stoltz re: announcement of new LGNZ Chief Executive Scott Necklen.</li> </ul>
Wed 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Invitation received for Online Update meeting on 26 March with Minister of Finance Nicola Willis and Local Government Minister Simon Watts re: National Fuel Plan</li> </ul>
Thu 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Email received from LGNZ CEO Scott Necklen outlining updates on Nation Fuel, Rates Capping, Dog Control update and latest info metrics insights on price for oil, water, gas and electricity.</li> </ul>
Fri 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update received from the Local Government Fuel Response Unit on New Zealand's Fuel response plan.</li> </ul>
<b>April 2026</b>	

Wed 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email received from Mercury Energy providing the 'Mercury Community Liaison Report for 2025'.</li> </ul>
Thu 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email received from Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora re: Te Pae Haumarū Rangatahi.</li> </ul>
Tue 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invitation received from the Ōpōtiki Marina and Industrial Park team to the Ōpōtiki Marina Announcement with date to be confirmed.</li> <li>Email received from New Plymouth Mayor Max Brough re: energy and resilience concerns currently related to economic pressure from overseas, calling for support from New Zealand Mayors to Members of Parliament.</li> <li>Email received from Mayor of Whakatāne Nandor Tanczos re: recent update on discussions with the Whakatāne District Iwi Chairs forum following conversations at the RLC, KDC, WDC &amp; ODC LWDW WCCO Exploration Working Group meeting at Firmin Lodge in March.</li> </ul>
Wed 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invitation received from Tūwharetoa mai Kawerau ki te Tai re: first Iwi Participation Agreement (Mana Whakahono ā Rohe) between Tūwharetoa mai Kawerau ki te Tai and Kawerau District Council.</li> </ul>
Fri 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invitation received from MP for East Cape Dana Kirkpatrick re: Business Engagement Lunch with date to be confirmed.</li> <li>Email received from CEO of LGNZ Scott Necklen re: National Fuel and LGNZ membership update.</li> </ul>
Sat 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email received from Emergency Management Bay of Plenty (EMBOP) re: Cyclone Vaianu.</li> </ul>
Mon 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email received from EMBOP Group Controller re: Cyclone Vaianu.</li> <li>Update received from Ministry for Regional Development re: postponement of Marina Announcement in Ōpōtiki.</li> <li>Email received from Chorus re: Cyclone Vaianu, Chorus Network connectivity.</li> </ul>
Tue 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email received from ARK Flood Barriers re: proposed flooding barriers for the Kawerau District Council post Cyclone Vaianu.</li> </ul>
Wed 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Email received from MTFJ Chair Mayor Ben Bell re: confirmation of MSD Funding for MTFJ for the 2026/2027 year only, with terms of the upcoming contract to be confirmed.</li> <li>Email received from LGNZ President Mayor Rehette Stoltz re: National Council update on Super Local conference 2026 postponed to October and LGNZ's advocacy priorities.</li> </ul>
Thu 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter received from Rapid Relief Team NZ, requesting a meeting to reflect on the support provided to Tauranga Moana re: the landslide incident.</li> <li>Email received from the Art's Access Aotearoa informing of the upcoming theme for the NZ Sign Language Week from 04 to 10 May 2026 – being "An Aotearoa where anyone can sign anywhere".</li> <li>Email received from NZME requesting a comment on the rescue operation at the Tarawera River.</li> <li>Email received from 1 News requesting a comment on the emergency services response to the reports of a rescue operation on the Tarawera river.</li> <li>Email received from TVNZ and 1 News requesting an interview after the tragedy held in Kawerau.</li> <li>Email received from 1 News (BOP Reporter) requesting a comment.</li> <li>Email received from NZ Herald requesting a statement following the sudden passing in Kawerau.</li> <li>Messages of aroha and prayers to the Kawerau Community, Whānau Pani, Council, Emergency services following the events in Kawerau were received from Ōpōtiki District Council, Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group.</li> </ul>

Fri 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Messages of aroha and prayers to the Kawerau Community, Whānau Pani, Council, Emergency services following the events in Kawerau were received from Audit Director from Audit NZ, Regional Public Service Commissioner, Oranga Tamariki and BOP Regional Council</li> <li>• Email received from the Local Government Fuel Response Unit for an update on NZ's National fuel supply.</li> <li>• Email received from Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau Hauora, offering support services post the loss of two sons of Kawerau along the Tarawera River.</li> </ul>
Sun 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email received from Andrew von Dadelszen JP   MBA, from Maranda Holdings Ltd, expressing his interest as an independent member in appointment to the Hearings Committee for the Kawerau District Council.</li> </ul>
Mon 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation received from DIA to attend an online ZOOM with the Minister of Finance Nicola Willis and Minister for Local Government Simon Watts re: National Fuel response update.</li> <li>• Email and message received from Regional Public Service Commission, sending her prayers to Kawerau and extending the opportunity to postpone the Local Leadership meeting scheduled for 30 April to a later date.</li> </ul>
Tue 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email received from Peter McKinly, McKinlay Douglas Ltd, providing his independent report titled 'The Coming Affordability Crisis'.</li> </ul>

### 3 **RECOMMENDATION**

That Her Worship the Mayor's report for the period Thursday, 19 March 2026 to Wednesday 22 April 2026.



Faylene Tunui  
**Kahika | Mayor**

**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting Date:** 29 April 2026

**Subject:** **Confirming Local Government New Zealand Membership**

**File No.:** 103100

## 1 **Background**

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) is a membership organisation representing local authorities in New Zealand. LGNZ functions as an advocacy organisation, representing the interests of local authorities in central government reforms, and as a professional service organisation supplying local authorities with a series of governance and operational resources.

Examples of LGNZ governance resources include:

- Expert templates for Standing Orders;
- Elected Member induction packages;
- Dedicated briefings outlining proposed central government reforms; and
- Ākona, a governance learning programme tailored to Elected Members.

Council relies on several LGNZ resources including its Standing Orders template.

LGNZ is governed via an elected National Council. Members are entitled to nominate delegates who can cast votes for the National Council every three years. Delegate voting also occurs on conference remits from year-to-year.

For the 2025-2028 triennium Her Worship Mayor Tunui is the elected “rural representative” on National Council. Cr Ross is also a governance representative in the Young Elected Member Network.

The invoice for Council’s membership of LGNZ to March 2027 is \$36,242.09 including GST. This is a 3.1% increase on the previous year.

For comparison, the invoice for Council’s membership of LGNZ to March 2026 was \$35,152.37 including GST.

## 2 **Options Considered**

There are two options for Council to consider:

- Reconfirm support for LGNZ membership to March 2027. **This option is recommended.**
- Cancel LGNZ membership for the year to March 2027. This option is not recommended.

### **3 Benefits to Kawerau District Council**

LGNZ offers a series of financial and non-financial benefits to member Councils. In Appendix 1 LGNZ quantifies a series of financial benefits including:

- Access to Ākona, a professional development platform for Elected Members and candidates. Ākona offers 22 courses with an estimated value of over \$1m if Councils were to commission those courses themselves;

In Appendix 1 LGNZ also describes a series of non-financial benefits including the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues. This collaboration occurs at the governance level with Elected Members forming inter-Council relationships through Sector Groups, Annual Conference, Zone 2 meetings, and other forums. The political and personal value of these relationships is high.

Collaboration can also occur at a staff level with Councils, including Kawerau District Council, adopting LGNZ frameworks and templates. In 2024 Council, under the administrative leadership of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, adapted LGNZ's framework for Regional Deals. This collaboration – and the access to frameworks and templates - can increase efficiency in smaller Councils because it removes the requirement for staff to create bespoke frameworks and templates, or to commission external experts to do so.

In Appendix 1 LGNZ quantifies the financial value of these frameworks and templates estimating the cost of, as one example, a bespoke Standing Orders framework at up to \$60,000. However, as a member, Council can access this framework as part of its overall membership cost.

### **4 Risks**

As a representative organisation, LGNZ is required at times to adopt political positions in central government reforms. These positions are usually expressed through its submissions to Select Committees, which Councils are often invited to contribute to. In some cases, LGNZ's collective political position may conflict with Council's individual position. Where this occurs, there are democratic means – i.e. via National Council – for individual Councils to submit their contrary position and any reasons in support of it.

### **5 Financial Considerations**

The invoice for Kawerau District Council's membership of LGNZ to March 2027 is \$36,242.09. In the context of the financial benefits Council derives from LGNZ membership, this is considered reasonable.

### **6 Significance and Engagement**

Given the level of expenditure is low in the context of Council's overall budget, the significance and engagement potential is considered low.

## 7 **Conclusion**

In conclusion, having identified the implications, assessed the degree of risk and significance, the recommendation of this report is that LGNZ membership is reconfirmed to March 2027.

## 8 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the report “Confirming Local Government New Zealand Membership” be received.
2. That Council confirms its membership of Local Government New Zealand to March 2027.



Morgan Godfery

**Chief Executive Officer**

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# The value of LGNZ membership 2026





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## From the President >

You will know by now that since December 2025, LGNZ has been on a path of reset and renewal. We know that we have our work cut out for us!

With a new President, Vice President and National Council, we are focused on ensuring LGNZ is responsive to members and effective in representing local government during a period of significant change.

A key priority has been rebuilding a constructive relationship with central government. Vice President Dan and I have met several times with the Prime Minister, Minister Watts and other senior Ministers. These conversations have been positive and focused on practical solutions. We have also met with the Leader of the Opposition and other political parties. Our role is to work constructively with whoever is in government, while ensuring local government's voice is heard and respected.

Equally important is ensuring LGNZ reflects the priorities of its members. We are here to listen and work with you. The feedback we have received from councils has helped shape the new LGNZ strategy outlined later in this document. That strategy places a strong emphasis on advocacy and influence to secure better long-term outcomes for local government.

Ultimately, our members – and the communities we serve – must see clear value in what LGNZ delivers. Later in the document we highlight how and where we save you and your community money via our advocacy.

We recognise councils are facing some of the toughest conditions in living memory. Cost-of-living pressures are real for communities, and councils are also managing a tsunami of reform across multiple policy areas. Every dollar matters. National Council has rejected the 9.5% fee increase planned by the previous National Council for this year. Instead we agreed 3.1%, recognising the pressure councils are under. LGNZ has put all costs under the microscope (including conference) and increased efficiency while protecting core member services.

This is also a time when local government needs a strong, united voice more than ever. LGNZ's work goes well beyond the direct services we provide to councils. Our advocacy helps protect councils from costs and risks that could otherwise fall directly on ratepayers.

Looking ahead, further reforms – from resource management to potential changes in local government structures and rating frameworks – will bring significant transition challenges for councils. Ensuring those costs and impacts are fairly managed will be a major focus of LGNZ's work.

In times of change, collective strength matters. LGNZ's influence comes from the breadth and unity of its membership. When councils stand together, our voice carries far greater weight.

Dan and I are always happy to talk with members about the direction of LGNZ and the work ahead. Please feel free to reach out if you would like a conversation or a visit. We're holding regular Zooms after National Council meetings and appreciating all your feedback.

We firmly believe LGNZ plays a vital role as the peak body for local government – and that role is strongest when we stand together.

Rehette Stoltz  
President, LGNZ

# LGNZ serves the long-term interests of local government >

We recognise this is a challenging time for regional council Chairs, councillors, Chief Executives and staff.

LGNZ's position on Simplifying Local Government is clear and we have discussed this directly with Minister Watts and the Prime Minister:

- > Combined Territories Boards will be most effective if they have a single, clear purpose: to develop reorganisation plans.
- > Regional councillors have valuable experience of the current functions regional councils undertake. This experience will be essential in developing future models and in implementing current reforms, such as resource management.
- > LGNZ supports retaining current regional councillors' governance over regional functions until either the end of this triennium or when regional reorganisation plans are finalised.
- > LGNZ also supports CTBs having direct access to regional councils' valuable institutional knowledge, including having a Chair or councillor as members.
- > There should also be flexibility on who leads a CTB: a Mayor, a current regional council Chair (to retain valuable institutional knowledge), or an independent chair.

LGNZ's President and Vice President have raised these points with both the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister. The Minister has told us there is flexibility and that one-size-doesn't-fit-all for every region. Minister Watts has been clear that he wants to work with LGNZ to improve reforms.

## LGNZ delivers for regional councils >

- > LGNZ delivers value for the regional sector through its political engagement, advocacy, and media presence.
- > Our role complements Te Uru Kahika's technical and operational expertise when the two organisations work together. Te Uru Kahika strengthens regional council's ability to deliver operational excellence, while LGNZ ensures regional expertise is connected to national decision making, especially when it comes to influencing political decisions.
- > *Before the Deluge* shows how this partnership works. Strong, evidence-based technical advice, effectively advocated for at the national level, delivered results for councils, communities and the Government.
  - + LGNZ supported the development of a government relations and comms approach
  - + LGNZ identified key officials to engage with, including when and on what
  - + LGNZ supported pitching stories to key infrastructure and political journalists
  - + LGNZ supported drafting letters and talking points for officials and ministers
  - + LGNZ met with ministers and officials as needed, including raising this topic in our regular ministerial meetings
- > LGNZ has recently collaborated with TUK to:
  - + Ensure our submission on the proposed rates capping formula reflected regional councils' specific operating environment, and that TUK's submission aligned with ours
  - + Advocate for regional councils to be able to utilise development levies as part of the new development levies regime
- > LGNZ delivered a targeted induction day for Chairs, which included engagement with Minister Watts.



**Top 10**

**advocacy  
wins from  
the past  
year >**

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## 01/ The Government eases seismic strengthening requirements

- > LGNZ advocated for the new regime that was announced last year. As Chair of LGNZ's seismic strengthening group, Manawatū Mayor Michael Ford drove this advocacy, which was also the subject of a 2024 remit from his council.
- > **Strengthening requirements are now focused on high-risk buildings in risky seismic zones rather than applying everywhere in New Zealand.**
- > Strengthening deadlines have been extended by four years – and councils can extend these further.
- > The Government has estimated the change will save more than \$8 billion. Councils that are building owners will save directly – and they will also benefit indirectly from the removal of this handbrake on towns' and cities' vibrancy. Many commercial property owners will also benefit as they will not have to undertake expensive strengthening work or demolition and can tenant buildings.

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## 02/ The building system will shift to proportionate liability, radically reducing councils' potential liability.

- > For councils, this is one of the most significant reforms to the building regime in decades and something LGNZ has long advocated for. It's been the subject of repeated remits and advocacy. This parliamentary term, we have raised it with Building and Construction Minister Chris Penk as well as generating visibility in the media.
- > Previously if builders went bankrupt, councils could end up liable, because any party could be held liable for the whole cost. For example, the leaky home crisis according to some estimates has generated as much as \$2 billion in liability for councils despite their role being limited to consenting or inspection.
- > Minister Chris Penk has said councils have paid out \$330 million over the last 10 years for building defects that they were not primarily responsible for.
- > **During 2026, the Government will replace joint-and-several liability with proportionate liability, where councils are only liable for their part of the process.** Proportionate liability means councils don't have to pay for other parties' failures, saving ratepayers billions in the event of another widespread failure.
- > Carrying less risk also means councils can make less risk-averse decisions.

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## 03/ We stopped proposed transport emergency works changes that would have cost councils

- > The Government proposed narrowing what qualifies as emergency works, reducing the level of government subsidy and shifting more responsibility for recovery on to councils.
- > LGNZ's Transport Forum led our fight against these changes, which would have seen councils facing higher recovery costs after storms and floods.
- > **The Government decided not to proceed and left existing settings largely unchanged. That means councils can still access co-funding for urgent repairs after natural disasters.**

## 04/ Our submission influenced the select committee's recommendations on the System Improvements Bill

- > The select committee considering the System Improvements Bill adopted many changes LGNZ submitted on, including:
  - + **Changes to the initially proposed purpose of local government that will reduce councils' risk of legal challenge over decision-making**
  - + **Adding community facilities and waste minimisation to the listed core services – and making that list non exhaustive**
- > Before the select committee process, we suggested these changes to the Minister, which were actioned:
  - + Removing the LGA requirements to publish ads in physical newspapers
  - + Removing the requirement for six-yearly service reviews

## 05/ Our Electoral Reform Working group gained wide buy-in to their recommendations – and substantial media coverage

- > **Ditching postal voting and moving to booth voting received support across the political spectrum** – one of the [working group's key recommendations](#).
- > Three days after the local government elections, Mayor Hon Dr Nick Smith and the rest of the working group met with Minister Watts to discuss next steps.
- > The decline of the postal service means urgent change is needed before the 2028 elections – we are continuing conversations with all political parties.
- > Policy.nz was stood up for the 2025 elections thanks to LGNZ raising funds from councils to ensure it was viable. All candidates were invited to contribute to the site, which sets out who is standing and what they stand for.

## 06/ We influenced the development of emergency management legislation

- > **Over the past year, LGNZ has been part of the steering group guiding development of the legislation, which retains a locally led model of emergency management.**
- > We have welcomed the new bill and its objectives – while being clear that funding cannot only arrive after disaster strikes.
- > We have been clear on the challenges that setting minimum levels of service would create for some areas, and will work with NEMA and the Minister to ensure this does not lead to unmanageable cost pressures on councils

## 07/ Mayors, Chairs and councillors can access funding for a security system

- > After LGNZ provided information to the Remuneration Authority about security threats to Mayors, Chairs and councillors, they agreed to introduce a security system allowance for elected members.
- > **This mirrors the allowance already available to Members of Parliament.**
- > If a council adopts the allowance, eligible members can receive up to \$4,500 to install a security system at their home and up to \$1,000 per year for monitoring, repairs, and call-outs.
- > In 2024, an LGNZ poll of Mayors, Chairs and Chief Executives at one of our events showed that nearly two thirds had faced aggressive and abusive behaviour online; 74% had experienced this behaviour during public, in-person meetings. A third of respondents said abuse and aggression happened during everyday activities like shopping or collecting children from school. We will be gathering new data in our triennial elected member census.

## 08/ Our intervention led to changes in DIA's council "report cards"

- > In mid-2025, DIA released its first annual "report card" for each council, intended to show ratepayers how their council compares to other "like" councils. DIA initially proposed to release these figures without any local context.
- > **LGNZ successfully advocated for the report cards to flag high-growth councils, those recovering from natural disasters, and those particularly impacted by tourism, for example.**
- > DIA also eventually agreed to share, ahead of time, data from other councils in your "group", to help councils plan for release.
- > They also agreed report cards could link to your council website, so you could add key local details.

## 09/ We are in the room on national direction for resource management.

- > **We have been engaging with officials behind the scenes on the development of the replacement resource management system, including the approach to its implementation.**
- > We worked with Buddle Findlay to develop our submission on the Planning and Natural Environment Bills

## 10/ The Ratepayers Assistance Scheme has gained strong political support

- > RAS aims to deliver cost-of-living relief through low-interest loans to ratepayers.
- > Like the Local Government Funding Authority, which LGNZ also spearheaded, the RAS is a potential gamechanger for local government. For councils, it's an off-balance sheet financing vehicle that leverages the security of rates.
- > **The RAS would enable ratepayers to access finance at about 2% less than a standard floating mortgage rate for specific property improvements that have a public benefit** (like solar panels that would deliver substantial long-term savings even when repayments are factored in); it would allow households on fixed incomes to postpone their rates; and it would remove a barrier to housing development by supporting deferred development contributions.
- > The RAS is a collaboration between LGNZ, LGFA, Rewire Aotearoa and funding councils (Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Wellington, Hutt City and Queenstown Lakes).



**How LGNZ  
saves  
councils  
(and ratepayers)  
money >**

# LGNZ saves councils money by delivering services at scale.

LGNZ is a membership organisation designed to deliver shared services at scale and save your ratepayers money, so that council staff can focus on core local services. Without access to these services, councils either purchase them at commercial rates or put additional pressure on council staff time.



## Submissions



LGNZ shares draft submissions, analysis and explainers with members on all key reforms.

- > We incorporate member feedback in our final versions.
- > Councils do not have the capacity to submit on every single consultation: LGNZ ensures local government's key concerns are represented.

Access to draft submissions saves councils tens of thousands of dollars. For example, our [resource management submission](#) was informed by David Allen, a partner at Buddle Findlay and one of New Zealand's leading legal experts on resource management. Councils could use this expert advice in your own submission, rather than commissioning your own specialist input. Elected members and staff could also hear directly from David and ask questions at an Ako hour in December.

LGNZ's submissions on resource management, local government systems reform and rates capping contained specialist legal and economic analysis that would cost your council **\$90,000** to commission. In addition to that cost, to produce these three detailed submissions yourself, a council would need to invest at least **200 hours of staff time**.

So far in 2026, we have shared 10 submissions. Based on past trends, we would expect to submit on at least another eight major bills or consultations before the House rises pre-election. Without LGNZ, councils either face scaling your policy team up and down to meet peaks in demand or outsourcing work to expensive consultants.

Each submission is worth between **\$30K-\$100K+** depending on its complexity. This value is represented by:

- > Influencing officials and Ministers before legislation is drafted. This includes LGNZ participation in working parties and reference groups.
- > Engaging with council expert staff to ensure alignment with members.
- > Developing explainers and position pieces to support your submissions and test early thinking.
- > Commissioning specialist input and advice, including from New Zealand's most reputable economic and legal experts.
- > In-house expertise to develop submissions.

The total value of our work responding to government reforms to date in 2026 is valued at between \$300,000 and \$1 million – with at least another four submissions anticipated before parliament breaks



## Professional development



Ākona saves councils significant training costs by giving unlimited access to online governance training, avoiding the need to purchase **equivalent commercial courses that typically cost \$800–\$1,200 per person per module**. The most popular courses since the elections have been:

- > Responsibilities of the chair
- > Council assets
- > Intergenerational costing
- > Asset maintenance

Ako hour sessions alone save at least \$100 per person per session, compared with the equivalent cost of short governance webinars from external providers. Sessions are recorded and available for replay at any time.

You can commission specific in-person **workshops for your council for \$5,000–\$7,000, which is roughly half the price of comparable commercial governance training** (typically \$10,000–\$12,000 per day).

Councils avoid expensive consultancy costs because Ākona provides sector-specific learning design and advice. External governance training consultants typically charge \$140–\$160 per hour plus design costs that can run into thousands of dollars.

On-demand training reduces wasted spend and staff time by allowing members to choose from **27 catalogues of governance topics**, rather than paying for generic courses that include irrelevant material. From asset management and risk to political acumen, writing and delivering speeches, climate adaptation, and personal safety, topics were all requested by members.

Long-term value is built through reusable learning resources (micro-modules, recorded sessions, templates and guides), ensuring skills and knowledge are retained rather than lost after one-off training events – maximising your return.

If you asked a third party to develop everything available to your council on the Ākona platform, it would cost your council **more than \$1 million**.



## Guides and data



LGNZ produces and regularly updates guides for elected members and councils, for example:

- > Elected member governance guide
- > Tax guide for elected members
- > Mayors and Chairs governance guide
- > Recruiting and managing your Chief Executive
- > Council declaration guide
- > Representation reviews guide
- > Standing Orders template and guide

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If a council commissioned these guides independently, it would cost **\$25,000 to \$50,000 per publication.**



## Media advice



Members have free access to our expert advice. We provide crisis media support for councils, particularly when multiple councils are involved, and individual tailored guidance and advice on specific issues.

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We have established working relationships with all media outlets.

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If you contracted in specialist advice, it would cost a council thousands of dollars per issue – starting at **\$280 an hour.**



## General advice



Members can pick up the phone for advice on specific challenges. LGNZ fields many calls from councils when you want a sense check or when things go wrong. This ranges from questions about the Local Government Act, conflict between the Mayor/Chair and a councillor or Chief Executive, or other curly issues. We are impartial and work confidentially to deescalate conflict so councils avoid costly legal disputes. Calling us can save a council significant money and time (and public reputational damage). We've seen it all before – and we know what works.

- > You would spend **\$150.00 to \$280.00 per hour** getting this advice from a commercial provider – and much more if you need to involve lawyers.

## Elevator pitch >

Local Government New Zealand is the national peak body for councils and local democracy. We bring local voices into national policy, influence decisions early, and work with government to deliver practical solutions. Our legitimacy comes from a strong membership base.

## Long-term goals >

Our long-term goals have been reset in 2026 by National Council. They drive LGNZ's work and are integrated into everything we do.

O1.

**LGNZ effectively influences central government.**

O2.

**New Zealanders value councils. Local decisions matter and councils are financially sustainable.**

O3.

**Strong Te Tiriti partnerships deliver positive outcomes for people, place and the economy.**

O4.

**More people participate in local government**

## We deliver long-term goals through influence, connection and support



### INFLUENCE/

- > Shape policy early, before it is developed, through relationships with officials, Ministers, all political parties.
- > Work with all political parties, key stakeholders and local government to advance our advocacy priorities (listed below) in the short and long term.
- > Improve policy through the legislative process.
- > Spearhead solutions to local government's intractable problems.
- > Use media to set the agenda and raise local government's voice.
- > Give members the right tools to boost local government's influence
- > Integrate a te ao Māori lens throughout our advocacy.



### CONNECTION/

- > Bring members together at our sector, All-of-local-government and conference events to hear from key speakers and Ministers, share ideas and connect.
- > Use events as an opportunity for members to influence key decision makers and officials.
- > Make sure members are in the loop on everything LGNZ does, with input into decisions and submissions.
- > Support Te Maruata, Young Elected Members and the Community Boards Executive Committee to connect and equip elected members and progress their kaupapa.
- > Connect women in local government online and in-person pre-conference.



### SUPPORT/

- > Build elected members' capability and knowledge through our Ākona professional development.
- > Launch a formal qualification for elected members in partnership with Victoria University.
- > Advocate to protect elected members' safety and security.
- > Deliver initiatives like Street Lights Profiles and the Road Efficiency Group that support best practice and generate efficiency and financial savings for councils.
- > Develop and update key guides and templates for councils.
- > Provide confidential support to councils in difficulty.
- > Develop and deliver value-add services, including shared services, that meet councils' needs.

## Our advocacy priorities >

Members generated these priorities and then ranked them at our February All-of-local-government meeting:

O1.

**Financially sustainable and cost-effective local government**

O2.

**Meeting current and future infrastructure needs**

O3.

**Resilient communities, economies, and environments**

O4.

**A responsive and accountable local government system**

Each priority will be driven by a reference group.

Regional, Metro and Rural & Provincial sectors will each have the opportunity to create sector goals under each priority.



**Everything  
LGNZ  
does for  
members >**

# INFLUENCE

## Our advocacy

- > We meet regularly with the Prime Minister and key Ministers. The Minister for Local Government has been clear both at sector meetings and behind the scenes that he wants to work with LGNZ.
- > Our non-partisan approach and regular access to the government-of-the-day means we can influence policy before and after it lands.
- > We also meet with the Coalition partners and Opposition parties.
- > We work with officials behind the scenes to change policy as it's developed.
- > Our media strategies put local government issues in the spotlight, including encouraging people to vote.
- > We make useful data available to members, for example our new *Local Government Quarterly Economic Insights* delivered by Infometrics ([see the December issue](#)). Councils would pay in excess of \$20,000 a year for an individual council.
- > We produce analysis that supports advocacy, like work to [quantify unfunded mandates](#) or our set of [Funding and Financing tools](#).
- > We spearhead specific projects, like the Ratepayers Assistance Scheme, which would allow ratepayers to borrow cheaply for specific property improvements (like solar panels), rates postponement and development contributions.
- > We share draft submissions, analysis and explainers with members on all key reforms.
- > We create member working groups to drive change: for example, our Transport Forum, which successfully advocated against proposed emergency works changes; and our Electoral Reform Working Group, which has achieved significant political and media buy in to its final recommendations (which we are continuing to progress).
- > We deliver long-term policy work, like our proposals to reform how local government elections are run – where there's agreement across the political spectrum change is needed due to persistently low voter turnout.

# CONNECTION

## Our member events and networks

- > Our sector and All-of-local-government meetings allow members to come together and hear from Ministers and expert speakers. We held stand-alone sector meetings in November 2025, followed by AOLG and Metro/Regional/Rural & Provincial sector meetings in February, with very strong attendance.
- > Our SuperLocal25 conference was held from 15-17 July at Te Pae in Christchurch, attracting nearly 800 attendees. Overall satisfaction data lifted significantly compared to 2024, with strong feedback on the value of the programme, breakout sessions and networking. We achieved significant media coverage, with 18 journalists from 11 media outlets onsite. We are well into planning SuperLocal26 in Rotorua in July.
- > We provide strong support and high-quality hui for our Te Maruata, Young Elected Members and CBEC networks.
- > We also hold a very popular breakfast for women elected members ahead of SuperLocal (last year featuring former Minister Tracey Martin).

# SUPPORT

## Our professional development and guidance

**Ākona is our professional development programme, with free access to all elected members and specifically designed to prepare members for every triennium milestone.**

- > It includes a growing range of e-modules and live online Ako hours, ranging from asset management to responsibilities of the chair, dealing with media and much more. Using Ākona delivers councils substantial professional development savings.
- > In July, we launched pre-elected learning for anyone considering standing for council. This interactive course stepped any potential candidates through what it means to be an elected member and was very popular, with 2,252 sessions by 1,118 active users.
- > More than 400 elected members attended our induction, from Mayors School to Elected Member inductions in 13 locations and Chairs Induction. We had outstanding feedback, especially compared to previous inductions, with an average satisfaction score of 4.6 out of 5, which is incredibly high. After attending induction, 91% of attendees felt either “very confident” or “confident” about their role. This is the result of months of planning.
- > Later this year, LGNZ and Victoria University will launch a formal qualification that elected members can achieve by presenting a portfolio of their everyday work.








**Members are strongly supportive of our work to advance elected member safety, which included:**

- > The launch of our very popular  [How to stay safe guide](#) last May.
- > Minister for Women Nicola Grigg launching a well-received toolkit targeted at women leaders at our 1 May All-of-local-government meeting.
- > Submissions in support of the Government’s legislation against stalking, and against protesting outside people’s homes. These submissions allow us to speak directly to central government politicians about the risks local elected members face.

**We also have a range of programmes that support members:**

- > Te Korowai, LGNZ's continuous improvement programme for councils
- > Road Efficiency Group, which is a partnership between LGNZ, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, and all road controlling authorities that provides data to improve decision making, supports best practice asset management and tests asset management plans.
- > Our Street Lights Profile supports councils in lowering electricity bills from dimmable streetlights and generates revenue for LGNZ.

**We prepare and update guides for councils, including:**

-  [Standing Orders templates and the Standing Orders Guide](#)
-  [Guidance for Mayors and Chairs;](#)
-  [Elected members guide to governance and local government](#)
-  [Recruiting and managing council CEs](#)
-  [The community boards' guide](#)
-  [The tax guide for elected members](#)
-  [Elected members' guide to the Local Government \(Rating\) Act](#)

**We provide confidential support and advice to councils in difficulty.**



# National Council 2025-28 >



**Mayor Rehette Stoltz**  
LGNZ President and Regional sector representative

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**Mayor Dan Gordon**  
LGNZ Vice President and Zone 5 representative

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**Mayor Ken Couper**  
Zone 1 representative

---



**Mayor Toby Adams**  
Zone 2 representative

---



**Mayor Craig Little**  
Zone 3 representative

---



**Mayor Fran Wilde**  
Zone 4 representative

---



**Mayor Tamah Alley**  
Zone 6 representative

---



**Mayor Grant Smith**  
Metro sector representative

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**Mayor Mahé Drysdale**  
Metro sector representative

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**Mayor Sophie Barker**  
Metro sector representative

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**Deputy Chair Bonita Bigam**  
Regional sector representative

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**Chair Deon Swiggs**  
Regional sector representative

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**Mayor Faylene Tunui**  
Rural sector representative

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**Mayor Tania Tapsell**  
Provincial sector representative

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**Councillor Dinnie Moeahu**  
Te Maruata Co-Chair

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**Deputy Mayor Aubrey Ria**  
Te Maruata Co-Chair

---



**Councillor Alex Crackett**  
Young Elected Member Chair

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**Meeting:** Council

**Meeting Date:** 29 April 2026

**Subject:** **2025 Triennial Election and Other Electoral Matters**

**File No.:** 101287

## **1 Background**

The 2025 triennial local government elections occurred on Saturday 11 October 2025.

The elections for Kawerau District Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council were conducted satisfactorily and on time and met all legislative and practical requirements according to the Local Electoral Act 2001, the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 and, to a limited extent, the Local Government Act 2002.

This report and Appendix contains the 2025 Final Election Report and Other Electoral Matters.

## **2 Options Considered**

Council's Electoral Officer is Dale Ofsoske of Election Services who has provided services to the council for more than 15 years (at least the last five triennial elections).

Election Services is renowned for the provision of best practice services pre and post-election. Dale Ofsoske is a long-standing member of the Local Government New Zealand Electoral Review Committee.

Election Services also provide election services to Ōpōtiki and Whakatāne District Councils in the Eastern Bay. In managing the local government elections for Kawerau District Council, Election Services carry out the elections for the respective councillors within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. There is a contract facilitated by Election Services between the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Kawerau District Council for cost-sharing in the triennial elections. Further information is contained within the attached report.

In addition, the three-yearly contract with Election Services expires on 30 June 2026. Therefore, in tabling of this 2025 Final Election Report, it is considered timely to consider renewing the contract with Election Services.

Option 1: It is recommended that Council renews the contract with Election Services for the provision of local government election guidance and processes. The new contract would commence on 1 July 2026 and run until 30 June 2029 (and would therefore include the provision of services leading up to and including the 2028 triennial elections).

*Note: This option is recommended.*

Option 2: Do not renew the contract with Election Services. Council could choose to seek services from an alternative service provider.

### **3 Policy and Plan Considerations**

The triennial elections and decisions were conducted within all relevant policy and plan considerations required of Council including relevant Council Bylaws and legislation.

Kawerau District Council established Māori Wards in 2023, and then as required by legislation, undertook a Representation Arrangements Review in 2024 in the lead-up to the 2025 elections.

The current arrangements of a Mayor elected at-large, two Councillors representing the District-Wide (At-Large) Ward, three Councillors representing the Kawerau Māori Ward, and three councillors representing the Kawerau General ward remain in place for the 2028, and 2031 triennial elections. This is due to the support of the Kawerau community to retain Māori wards in the poll undertaken with the 2025 triennial elections.

Kawerau District Council retained the First Past the Post voting system, candidates were listed alphabetically and postal voting was used for the 2025 triennial elections.

Following the 2025 Local Government elections, there are several reviews being undertaken including: Parliament's Justice Committee is undertaking its normal inquiry into the conduct of the 2025 local government elections. Submissions were called for and closed on 27 February 2026.

As these reviews are undertaken, any changes or suggestions will be relayed by the Electoral Officer and if any legislative amendments follow, become part of the new electoral processes for the 2028 elections. For example, there will be a review of whether one policy on election signs should be put in place for local government elections in Aotearoa.

#### **Next Steps**

Electoral legislation and considerations begin in the year following local government triennial elections.

The first decision, to be made by 12 September 2026, is whether to retain the First Past the Post electoral voting system. This has been Kawerau District Council's preferred voting system historically.

Of note, is that Auckland Council, is investigating the use of voting booths – rather than postal voting for the 2028 triennial elections. Currently, voting papers and candidate booklets form part of the voting process for local government elections. Voters can choose whether to send their voting papers back via the postal services, or drop them into voting boxes at Council Offices and other officially designated voting areas, such as the District Library, Council isite and the New World Kawerau supermarket – which were all in place for the 2025 elections.

Voting booths are used for the general elections to elect Central Government.

As Kawerau is a relatively small geographical area, the use of voting booths may be something that the Council wishes to investigate. In 2025, the cost of postage for voting documents to go out to those on the Kawerau electoral rolls, totalled \$18,900. If voting booths were used, this would lower the postage costs required as candidate booklets and voting documents would not be sent via post. However, additional costs would be required with staffing required and suitable venues to host the voting booths.

There is no legislative deadline for Council to change from postal voting to booth voting. However, given it would be a new practice, there would be significant time required to fully investigate, plan and implement any alternative methods.

Council would be required to resolve to adopt voting booths, following those investigations, while still allowing sufficient time for the planning and implementation of a change from postal voting to booth voting. This will be done with the guidance of Election Services.

#### **4 Risks**

There are no known risks with regard to the decision-making required at this stage. Making a decision to retain Election Services provides continuity of services and ensures that Council adheres to all required legislation.

#### **5 Financial Considerations**

Existing budget estimates have been allowed for in the years following the 2025 triennial elections and preceding the 2028 triennial elections.

#### **6 Legal Considerations**

The decisions are consistent with relevant legislation as referenced.

#### **7 Significance and Engagement**

Adopting the 2025 Final Election Report does not require consultation as election processes are strictly governed by legislation. This legislation outlines the required consultation and engagement throughout the election processes including the representation arrangements review, which Kawerau District Council undertook in the lead-up to the 2025 elections.

Making a decision to continue with Election Services as Council's Electoral Officer is within the Council's decision-making responsibility.

#### **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the report "2025 Triennial Election and Other Electoral Matters" be received.

2. That Council resolves to renew the contract with Independent Election Services as Kawerau District Council's Electoral Officer for a period of three years commencing 1 July 2026, including the 2028 triennial elections, to 30 June 2029.
3. That Council resolves to proceed through the relevant electoral decisions, including the consideration of postal versus booth voting, with further updates and decision-making to Council as required.



Tania Humberstone

**Manager Communications and Engagement**

Z:\KDC Taxonomy\Governance\Democratic Services\Meetings\Council\Reports\04 April 2026\R - Election 2025 Final Report 2026 -04-29.docx

# FINAL REPORT

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## 2025 Triennial Election and Other Electoral Matters

12 March 2026 | 12 Māehe 2026

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## Outline

The 2025 local government triennial elections occurred on Saturday 11 October 2025. The elections for Kawerau District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council were conducted satisfactorily and on time and met all legislative and practical requirements.

This report summaries the electoral process.

## Background

Local government elections are required to be conducted every three years, with the 2025 election occurring on Saturday 11 October 2025. The conduct of these elections is prescribed by legislation and regulation to ensure public confidence and electoral integrity are maintained.

The following preliminary actions/decisions were made:

- (i) in August 2023, Council resolved to retain the FPP (First Past the Post) electoral system for the 2025 triennial elections. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council similarly retained the FPP electoral system for their election;
- (ii) in 2023, Council resolved to establish one or more Māori wards for the 2025 and 2028 triennial elections;
- (iii) in 2024, a legislative change required all local authorities who had Māori wards or constituencies established after 2020, to either rescind their earlier resolution to establish Māori wards or constituencies or hold a poll with their 2025 triennial election. A poll was therefore required for Kawerau District Council, but not for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council as their Māori constituencies were established before 2020;
- (iv) during 2024, Council undertook a representation arrangements review (a review of representation arrangements such as the number of elected members etc), to reflect the new Māori ward;
- (v) postal voting to be used;
- (vi) the alphabetical order of candidate names to be used for Council and the random order to be used for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

The electoral officer appointed for the Kawerau District Council is Dale Ofsoske of Election Services with Tania Humberstone, Communications and Engagement Manager, appointed as Deputy Electoral Officer.

With the 2025 elections now complete, this report details the various electoral processes undertaken and election statistics for the information of Council.

## Narrative

### Elections Required

Elections were undertaken for:

Kawerau District Council

- mayor (elected at large)
- 8 councillors

- 2 elected at large
- 3 elected from the Kawerau General Ward
- 3 elected from the Kawerau Māori Ward

- Māori wards poll

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

- Eastern Bay of Plenty General Constituency (2) or
- Kōhi Māori Constituency (1).

## Timetable

Key election functions and dates were:

### **Nomination period**

4 July – 1 August 2025

### **Inspection of Preliminary Electoral Roll**

4 July – 1 August 2025

### **Delivery of voting mailers**

9-22 September 2025

### **Special voting/early processing**

9 September – 11 October 2025

### **Election day**

11 October 2025

### **Preliminary count**

11 October 2025

### **Official count**

12-17 October 2025

### **Return of Electoral Donations & Expenses Form**

by 11 December 2025

Due to a legislation change in 2024, a longer postal delivery period was permitted with the voting period extended from three-weeks to four-and-a-half weeks.

## Electoral Roll

The electoral roll comprises two parts, the Residential Electoral Roll and the non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

The Residential Electoral Roll contains parliamentary electors, whose details are maintained and supplied by the Electoral Commission.

Each territorial authority is responsible for compiling its own non-resident Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

To compile the Ratepayer Electoral Roll, three actions are required:

- (i) issuing an explanatory ratepayer roll flyer with all rates notices;
- (ii) a nationwide advertising campaign on the criteria of ratepayer elector qualifications and enrolment procedures; and
- (iii) the issuing of Ratepayer Confirmation Forms to all eligible 2022 Ratepayer Electoral Roll electors, and if returned, these along with any new enrolments, form the basis of the 2025 Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

A national advertising campaign was undertaken by Taituarā during May 2025 advising readers in all major daily newspapers of the criteria and qualifications required to be eligible for the Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

In April 2025, eight Ratepayer Roll Confirmation Forms were issued to eligible 2022 Ratepayer Electoral Roll electors. Once new enrolments had been added, a total of nine non-resident ratepayer electors appeared on the 2025 Final Ratepayer Electoral Roll.

### **Preliminary and Final Electoral Rolls**

The Preliminary and Final Electoral Rolls contained elector details in alphabetical order with a flag denoting the ward and regional council constituency entitlement.

The Preliminary Electoral Roll was available for public inspection during normal office hours between 4 July 2025 and 1 August 2025 from the District Office, 2 Ranfurly Court, Kawerau and the District Library, Jellicoe Court, Kawerau.

On the Final Electoral Roll there were 5,175 electors (5,166 resident electors and nine ratepayer electors).

The total number of electors of 5,175 is an increase of 50 (+1%) when compared to the 2022 Final Electoral Roll of 5,125.

### **Nominations**

The nomination period was 4 July to noon 1 August 2025.

For the first time, candidates were available to access, complete and submit nominations 24/7 by going online to: [esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/KW](http://esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/KW)

Nomination material was available during this time from:

- the District Office, 2 Ranfurly Court, Kawerau;
- downloading the material from the Council's website;
- phoning the electoral office to have the material posted out.

A detailed '2025 Candidate Information Handbook' was prepared and made available to all candidates, any interested party (e.g. media) and available online. The handbook contained relevant information about the Council and its electoral process for potential candidates.

A total of 15 nominations were received for the nine vacancies, these being:

Issue	No. Nominations	No. Vacancies
Mayor	2	1
Councillors	13	8
Total	15	9

The 15 nominations received for mayor and council vacancies compares with 13 nominations received at the 2022 election.

For candidate names, refer Notice of Day of Election - **Appendix 2.**

### **Candidate Meetings**

Two successful prospective candidate meetings were held during the nomination period with about 12 members of the public attending each:

5.30pm, Wednesday 28 May 2025 (Concert Chamber)

5.30pm, Tuesday 24 June 2025 (Marae)

### **Voting Mailers**

Voting mailers consisting of an outward envelope, return prepaid envelope, voting document and a candidate profile booklet (which included instructions in English and Māori) were posted to electors from Tuesday 9 September 2025.

The voting mailers were produced by the NZ Post Group and were consistent in design layout to all other local authorities in the country.

### Return of Voting Documents

Voting documents were also able to be delivered to an orange vote box at the following locations:

- District Office, 2 Ranfurly Court, Kawerau;
- Kawerau New World Supermarket.

### Elector Turnout

Of the 5,175 electors on the Final Electoral Roll, 2,345 electors returned their voting document. This represents a 45.3% return and compares to a 42.1% return in 2022.

A schedule of the daily returned voting documents over the voting period is attached (**Appendix 1**).

Of note, the 2025 average nationwide voter turnout is 48% (compared to 45.6% for the 2022 election).

### Results

With the undertaking of the early processing of returned voting documents during the voting period, progress results were able to be released on election day at around 1pm. Progress results reflected about 81% of votes cast and did not include votes received at Council's office on election day morning or special votes received.

The preliminary results were released about midday on the following day after the receipt and processing of votes received at Council's office on election day morning. The preliminary result reflected about 98% of votes cast. These statistics show about 19% of all votes cast were received on the last couple of days of voting.

Both the progress and preliminary results were released to candidates and placed on Council's website.

The final results (Declaration of Results of Election – see **Appendix 3**) were made on Friday 17 October 2025 and were also released to candidates and placed on Council's website.

### Māori Wards Poll

For the Māori Wards Poll, 1,557 electors voted to keep Māori wards (68.68%) and 710 electors voted to remove Māori wards (31.32%). The outcome of the poll is binding for two triennial elections (2028 and 2031) so this issue cannot be revisited until 2032 (for the 2035 triennial election).

## Election Costs

The 2025 estimated election cost was \$71,500 + GST - subject to final statistics and actual third-party costs plus costs associated with the Māori wards poll.

The 2025 final election and poll cost has now been determined at \$72,485 + GST (or for 5,175 electors, \$14.01 + GST/elector).

Of the \$72,485 + GST final cost, Council is able to recover \$17,633 + GST (24.33%) from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

This leaves a net cost to Council for their election and poll of \$54,852 + GST (75.67% of the total).

The cost share between organizations is determined by the nationally provided Taituarā MOU Cost Sharing Calculator.

## Upcoming Issues

### Inquiry into the 2025 elections

Parliament's Justice Committee is undertaking its normal inquiry into the conduct of the 2025 local government elections. Submissions were called for and closed on 27 February 2026.

The inquiry will focus on:

- Voting processes, including:
  - Reports of people being removed from rolls or switched between them
  - Number of disallowed special votes
  - Outcomes of recent changes to the delivery of voting papers and returns, such as increased use of DX mail and orange bins in supermarkets
  - Use of telephone dictation for voters who are blind, visually impaired or physically unable to mark their voting paper
  - The appropriateness of the use of mobile voting booths
- Electoral integrity, including disinformation and misinformation
- Consideration of the role of councils and their staff when determining voting arrangements, and their relationships with the electoral agencies responsible for conducting the voting.

**Electoral System Review** Under the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA), a local authority may resolve, before 12 September 2026, to change the electoral system used at the last election. Should Council wish to consider changing its electoral system (to single transferable voting), it can do so by resolution no later than 12 September 2026.

However, a public notice must be given by 19 September 2026 providing the right of electors to demand a poll on the matter.

## Conclusion

The Kawerau District Council's 2025 triennial election and Māori wards poll were conducted successfully and met all legislative and practical requirements. No issues or concerns of significance arose from these elections and all tasks were completed satisfactorily and on time.

## Recommendation

That the report titled '2025 Triennial Election and Other Electoral Matters' be received.

Yours sincerely,



Dale Ofoske  
Electoral Officer // Kawerau District Council  
Election Services  
+64 9 973 5212  
dale@electionservices.co.nz



## APPENDIX 2



## NOTICE OF DAY OF ELECTION FOR THE KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Nominations received

Notice is given under section 65 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 that the following persons have been duly nominated as candidates for

MAYOR *(one vacancy)*

Name	Affiliation
ION, Carolyn	
TUNUI, Faylene Karen Ngareta	

## COUNCIL

District-wide *(two vacancies)*

Name	Affiliation
ANDREWS, Wayne	
ION, Carolyn	
JULIAN, Berice Joyce	
KINGI, Sela	

Kawerau General Ward *(three vacancies)*

Name	Affiliation
DRUMMOND, Melissa Joy	
HILL, Tracy	Independent
ROSS, Justin	
WORSLEY, Anthony Ross	

Kawerau Māori Ward *(three vacancies)*

Name	Affiliation
APIATA, Waikite	
DOWIE, Mal	
HOWARD, Lyzette	
LEOKAVA-TAANI, Gloria Te Paki	

As there are (for each office) more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, an election will be held between the listed candidates on Saturday, 11 October 2025, under the First Past the Post electoral system by postal vote.

## Order of candidate names

The Kawerau District Council has resolved under regulation 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 to adopt the alphabetical order of candidate names to appear on the voting documents.

## Māori Ward Poll

Notice is also given under section 65 of the Local Electoral Act 2001, that the Kawerau District Council is required to hold a poll on its Māori ward in conjunction with its 2025 elections. The poll will be held on Saturday, 11 October 2025 under the First Past the Post electoral system by postal vote.

The outcome of the poll will be binding and apply for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

The poll is a vote to KEEP or REMOVE the Kawerau District Council's Māori Ward.

## Issuing of voting documents

Voting documents will be posted to electors from Tuesday, 9 September 2025.

## Return of voting documents

Voting documents must be returned not later than noon, Saturday, 11 October 2025 to the electoral officer.

Voting documents can be returned by post or hand delivered at the following locations during normal business hours between Tuesday, 9 September 2025 and Friday, 10 October 2025, and between 9:00am – noon on Saturday, 11 October 2025:

- District Office, 2 Ranfurly Court, Kawerau
- District Library, Jellicoe Court, Kawerau
- Kawerau New World, Tarawera Court, Kawerau.

## Special voting

Special voting in terms of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 may be exercised at the District Office, 2 Ranfurly Court, Kawerau during normal business hours between Tuesday, 9 September 2025 and Friday, 10 October 2025, and between 9.00am – noon on Saturday, 11 October 2025, or by phoning the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

A person can apply to enrol as either a residential or ratepayer elector right up to and including Friday, 10 October 2025 – the day before the close of voting.

Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer  
 Kawerau District Council  
 2 Ranfurly Court, Kawerau  
 Phone: 0800 922 822

6 August 2025

## APPENDIX 3



## DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF ELECTION AND POLL

Pursuant to section 86 of the Local Electoral Act 2001, I declare the results of the election and Māori wards poll held on 11 October 2025 to be as follows:

MAYOR (*one vacancy*)

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
ION, Carolyn		660
TUNUI, Faylene Karen Ngareta		1663
Informal		0
Blank		22

*I therefore declare Faylene Karen Ngareta TUNUI to be elected.*

## COUNCIL

District-wide (*two vacancies*)

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
ANDREWS, Wayne		462
ION, Carolyn		1086
JULIAN, Berice Joyce		1332
KINGI, Sela		1397
Informal		11
Blank		31

*I therefore declare Berice Joyce JULIAN and Sela KINGI to be elected.*

Kawerau General Ward (*three vacancies*)

Name	Affiliation	Votes Received
DRUMMOND, Melissa Joy		307
HILL, Tracy	Independent	643
ROSS, Justin		1083
WORSLEY, Anthony Ross		838
Informal		2
Blank		24

*I therefore declare Tracy HILL, Justin ROSS and Anthony Ross WORSLEY to be elected.*

Kawerau Māori Ward *(three vacancies)*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Votes Received</b>
APIATA, Waikite		667
DOWIE, Mal		453
HOWARD, Lyzette		407
LEOKAVA-TAANI, Gloria Te Paki		493
Informal		1
Blank		8

*I therefore declare Waikite APIATA, Mal DOWIE and Gloria Te Paki LEOKAVA-TAANI to be elected.*

## Māori Wards Poll

<b>Option</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Votes Received</b>
I vote to KEEP Māori wards		1557
I vote to REMOVE Māori wards		710
Informal		3
Blank		75

*I therefore declare the option to KEEP Māori wards for Kawerau District Council, effective for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections, is passed.*

Dated at Kawerau, 17 October 2025

Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer  
 Kawerau District Council  
 2 Ranfurly Court, Kawerau  
 Phone: 0800 922 822

**Meeting:** Council  
**Meeting Date:** 29 April 2026  
**Subject:** Dog Registration Fees 2026/27  
**File No.:** 213100

## 1 **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to set the dog registration fees for the 2026/27 financial year.

## 2 **Background**

All dogs over the age of three months must be registered annually with Council, under the Dog Control Act 1996. As at 31 March 2026, Council had 1,264 dogs registered of the 1,330 dogs listed on the dog register for 2025/26 (95%).

Council must adopt the fees prior to the next registration year (being 1 July) and at least once during the month preceding the start of every registration year publicly notify in a newspaper the fees fixed for the registration year.

The proposed expenditure and revenue for dog control and dog registration activities for 2026/27:

Dog Control Activity – direct costs	\$333,710
Overheads (including pound costs)	<u>\$162,260</u>
	\$495,970
Dog registration – direct costs	\$45,100
Overheads	<u>\$22,780</u>
	\$67,880
<b>Total cost Dog Control Activity</b>	<b>\$563,850</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Registration Fees	\$73,800
Infringements	\$10,540
Rates	<u>\$479,510</u>
<b>Total Income Dog Control Activity</b>	<b>\$563,850</b>

Known dog owners, who register their dogs are funding 13% of the total costs of the Dog Control activity, 2% is funded from infringements, while ratepayers fund the balance 85% of the total dog control activities. The direct dog registration costs of \$67,880 are 100% recovered from registration fees, with a further 3.3% (\$16,460 including infringement fees) contributed to the Dog Control Activity.

The following are the dog registration fees for 2025/26 (including GST):

Neutered Dog	\$43.00
Entire Dog	\$86.00
Late payment penalty	50% addition to the fee charged
Seizure Fee (when dog is removed from the owner's property)	\$97.00
Fee for first impounding	\$97.00
Fee for second impounding	\$133.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$172.00
Sustenance Fee (Daily)	\$13.50
Microchipping Fee	\$18.50
Replacement Tag Fee	\$7.00
Rehoming Fee	\$13.50

Previously, it had been Council's policy to keep the dog fees low to make the cost of registration affordable and encourage all dog owners to register their dogs.

Council, the last three financial years, has increased the fees and charges annually by inflation to avoid significant increases in one year. The annual inflation rate to 31 March 2026 is 3.1%. Inflation continues to impact Council's expenditure including for the delivery of Dog Control Services.

If Council increases the fees by the annual inflation rate to 31 March 2026 (3.1%), the fees would be:

Neutered Dog	\$44.00
Entire Dog	\$89.00
Late payment penalty	50% addition to the fee charged
Seizure Fee (when dog is removed from the owner's property)	\$100.00
Fee for first impounding	\$100.00
Fee for second impounding	\$137.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$177.00
Sustenance Fee (Daily)	\$14.00
Microchipping Fee	\$19.00
Replacement Tag Fee	\$7.50
Rehoming Fee	\$14.00*

Alternatively, Council could increase the dog registration fees by a greater amount to recognise that dog owners should pay more towards the costs of the dog control activity. Some ratepayers (particularly those that don't own dogs) feel that a greater percentage of these costs should be paid for by owners and not ratepayers as dog owners cause the need for this activity (they are exacerbators).

One fee that is recommended to be increased by more than inflation is the Rehoming Fee, which at \$14.00 would not cover the cost of microchipping and dog registration which is included when rehoming a dog. Other Bay of Plenty Councils have an adopt a dog or dog sale fee ranging from \$47.00 up to as high as \$437.00, while Whakatāne District Council has a rehoming fee of \$29 plus new owner must pay for the registration and microchipping of the dog. The level of Council's rehoming fee has to balance covering some costs, (although there is a significant amount of staff time that can't be recovered), while setting the fee at a level that still encourages the rehoming dogs. The recommended rehoming fee for 2026/27 is \$44.00.

Council is required to adopt the 2026/27 dog fees and charges prior to the commencement of the year, as well as advertise the fees and charges in June. The following table lists the dog fees and charges for other Bay of Plenty Councils for 2025/26:

<b>Councils</b>	<b>Ōpōtiki</b>	<b>Whakatāne</b>	<b>Rotorua</b>	<b>Tauranga</b>	<b>WBOP</b>	<b>Taupō</b>
<b>Neutered</b>	\$60.00	\$67.00	\$114.00	\$129.00 Normal	\$110.00	\$100.00
<b>Entire</b>	\$120.00	\$97.00	\$125.00	\$193.50 Dangerous	\$140.00	\$115.00
<b>Seizure fee (2<sup>nd</sup> seizure)</b>	\$100.00	No Fee	\$65.00	\$100.00	1 <sup>st</sup> \$132.00 2 <sup>nd</sup> \$242.00	No Fee
<b>Microchipping</b>	\$25.00	\$18.00	\$34	\$33.00	\$38.50	\$31.00
<b>Impound Fees</b>						
– First	\$65.00	\$69.00	\$95.00	\$107.00*	\$143.00*	\$210.00*
-Second	\$105.00	\$103.00	\$195.00	\$153.00	\$242.00*	\$210.00
-Third	\$155.00	\$138.00	\$225.00	**\$221.00	\$242.00	\$210.00
<b>Sustenance</b>	\$13.00	\$9.00	\$17.00	\$14.00	\$19.75	\$31.00

\*Lower fee if dog registered \*\* Fourth and subsequent = \$307.00

NB Some of these councils also have a reduced fee for working and/or rural dogs.

### **3 Options for 2026/27**

The following are possible options for the 2026/27 dog fees and charges:

- 3.1 Keep the fees and charges for 2026/27 the same as 2025/26. This option would result in revenue from registration fees of around \$71,580.
- 3.2 Increase the current dog registration fees by 3.1% (annual inflation to 31 March 2026), except for the Rehoming Fee being increased to \$44.00. This would result in a further \$2,220 of fee revenue compared to 2025/26.

	<b>Fees 2025/26</b>	<b>Proposed 2025/26</b>
Neutered Dog	\$43.00	\$44.00
Entire Dog	\$86.00	\$89.00
Late payment penalty – Applied 2 August 2024 – 50% addition to the fee charged		
Seizure Fee (at the Dog Control Officer's discretion)	\$97.00	\$100.00
Fee for first impounding	\$97.00	\$100.00
Fee for second impounding	\$133.00	\$137.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$172.00	\$177.00
Sustenance Fee (Daily)	\$13.50	\$14.00
Microchipping Fee	\$18.50	\$19.00
Replacement Tag Fee	\$7.00	\$7.50
Rehoming Fee	\$13.50	\$44.00

Kawerau's dog registration fees are currently lower than all other councils in the Bay of Plenty, but any increase in fees may be a disincentive for dog owners to register their dogs.

For the 2026/27 budget the projected revenue for the dog registration activity has been based on the fees and charges being increased by inflation to \$73,800.

#### **4 Policy and Plan Considerations**

The Revenue and Financing Policy states all dog registration activity costs (100%) and 10% of the dog control activity costs are recovered from users by way of fees and charges. The revenue recovered from users is lower than the percentages per the Revenue and Financing Policy at 10%. To reach 10% recovery of the dog activity costs, the registration fees income would need to increase a further \$33k, which would significantly increase the dog registration fees, which could result in fewer dogs being registered. The funding percentage being higher at 10% does give Council the opportunity to move towards higher fees. The funding percentages per the Revenue and Financing Policy will be reviewed as part of the Long Term Plan 2027-2037.

#### **5 Financial Considerations**

If Council adopts option 3.2 this is consistent with the current budget as prepared in the Annual Plan, with total fees and charges of \$73,800. If Council adopts option 3.1 this would increase the rates requirement by \$2,200 due to lower fees and charges to fund the Dog Control activity.

#### **6 Legal Considerations**

There are no known legal obligations that would prevent Council from adopting the recommendations. The fees recommended below are in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996.

## 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report "Dog Registration Fees 2026/27" be received.
2. That Council sets the Dog Registration fees for 2026/27 as follows:

Neutered Dog	\$44.00
Entire Dog	\$89.00
Late payment penalty-applied 2 August 2025	50% addition to the fee charged
Seizure Fee (at the Dog Control Officer's discretion)	\$100.00
Fee for first impounding	\$100.00
Fee for second impounding	\$137.00
Third and subsequent impounding	\$177.00
Sustenance Fee (Daily)	\$14.00
Microchipping Fee	\$19.00
Replacement Tag Fee	\$7.50
Rehoming Fee	\$44.00



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