

**Minutes of the Regulatory & Services Committee
held on Wednesday 11 February 2026
commencing at 9.00am**

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

In Attendance: Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services (L Butler)
Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning (M Glaspey)
Group Manager, Operations and Services (R Nel)
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 prayer.

2 Apologies

Apologies from the Chief Executive Officer and Economic and Community Development Manager were received.

**Councillors Julian / Apiata
CARRIED**

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 Public Forum

No Public Forum were received.

6 Action Schedule (Chief Executive Officer) (101120)

Resolved

That the updated Action Schedule of resolutions/actions as updated and amended requested by Council be received.

**Councillors Apiata / Dowie
CARRIED**

PART A – REGULATORY

7 Monthly Report - Regulatory and Planning Services (Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (340000)

The Committee discussed a report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning covering activities for the months of December 2025 and January 2026.

Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning Updates:

- As of yesterday, a new amendment to the Health and Safety Act came online. It relates to the public use of grounds so it will affect how Health and Safety is dealt with on Council Reserves. More details of this will be brought to Council.
- A proposed timeline for the District Plan Review will be presented to Council.
- The one food complaint received was a product that should not be shelved in New Zealand. Inspections were completed and nothing was found. Council will continue to monitor and do inspections.

Elected Members Comments:

- Elected Members queried the process for people to reapply for their Food Control Verification if found unacceptable. Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning advised that once customer registers they need to be verified that their process and procedures are safe. If a verification is deemed unacceptable, they are then given a set of targets that is to be met and then re-tested.

Action Items:

- A reminder to the community about taking care of their dogs. Also include the relationships with different organisations and groups Council have that can assist whānau | family and specialise in education of dog ownership.
- The recommendation for a fenced off dog area to be lifted to the Community Safety Committee.
- Communications to go out to the community about the new legislation regarding Granny flats.

Resolved

That the report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning for the months of December 2025 and January 2026 is received.

**Councillors Ross / Dowie
CARRIED**

PART B – NON-REGULATORY

8 Monthly Report – Finance and Corporate Services (Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services) (211000)

The Committee discussed a report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services covering activities for the months of December 2025 and January 2026.

Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services Update:

- Under Request for Service the service requests for Trees have been separated from Parks and Reserves so now is its own category.
- A new report item has been added which is under item 6 – Loans.

Elected Members Comments:

- Elected Members queried if Kawerau Council are treated fairly when applying for external funding. Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services advised that Manager Barton applies for external funding and does an excellent job in this space. Council are not the decision makers but always out test forward in applications. Council does well in terms of funding for roading as 75% subsidy rate received. Christmas in the Park is solely reliant on funders, they are very generous and support appreciated. For the youth space Council have noticed this has been a harder category to receive funding due to the criteria from funders. Her Worship the Mayor also advised there are some funders that decide how much is given based on population.
- It was recommended that funding that is meant to come into Kawerau is tracked by one of the new committees Council has established.
- Acknowledgement to the reference of the Action Schedule in the report and highlighting what made the Pirate Murder Mystery evening at the Kawerau Library a success.

Action Items:

- Internal loans to be included to item 6 - Loans.

Resolved

That the report from the Group Manager, Finance and Corporate Services for the months of December 2025 and January 2026 is received.

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

9 Monthly Report - Operations and Services (Group Manager, Operations and Services) (440000)

The Committee discussed a report from the Group Manager, Operations and Services covering activities for the months of December 2025 and January 2026.

Group Manager, Operations and Services Update:

- For clarification the first two bullet point on page 28 under item 9 are for the month of December only and the other four are for December and January.

- There was only one RFS from the public for streetlights the rest are from staff when they monitor the lights.
- The contract with Horizon Networks has been renewed and Councils targets have been included. The contract will be reviewed in 6 months from December 2025.
- Status of heating of the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre – The geothermal well is blocked so there is no hot fluid to heat the pools. Drilling was done but this was unsuccessful. Staff are working with specialist and qualified drilling companies to investigate what options there are and once this has been identified Council will be informed of these options.

Action Items:

- The increase in vandalism to be lifted to the Community Safety Committee.
- Elected Members to be advised who the specialist and qualified companies Council are dealing with for the heating of the pools.
- If support from Elected Members is required to engage with Bay of Plenty Regional Council around the water resource consent Council Staff will inform Elected Members.
- A report to be provided to Council around appropriate policies in the operational space for Elected Members to know these policies. A briefing date will be confirmed.

Resolved

That the report from the Group Manager, Operations and Services for the months of December 2025 and January 2026 is received.

**Councillors Julian / Apiata
CARRIED**

10 Monthly Report - Economic and Community Development (Economic and Community Development Manager) (309005)

The Committee discussed a report from the Economic and Community Development Manager covering activities for the months of December 2025 and January 2026.

Resolved

That the report from the Economic and Community Development for the months of December 2025 and January 2026 be received.

**Councillors Apiata / Worsley
CARRIED**

11 Monthly Report – Communications and Engagement (Communications and Engagement Manager) (340100)

The Committee discussed a report from the Communications and Engagement Manager covering activities for the months of December 2025 and January 2026.

Communications and Engagement Manager Updates:

- A list of what is to be expected from the engagement plan will be provided to Council in the next Regulatory and Services Committee meeting, e.g. the Annual Plan and Local Water Done Well.

Resolved

That the report from the Communications and Engagement Manager for the months of December 2025 and January 2026 be received.

**Councillors Julian / Dowie
CARRIED**

12 Proposed Council Submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill (Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (340000)

The Committee discussed a report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning covering the Proposed Council Submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill.

Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning Updates:

- The Bills cover how resource management will be changed moving forward. There are changes that will impact the Kawerau community and is detailed in the attachment. It was important for Council to make a submission so that the community have a voice into this act.
- The submission was put together to highlight some key points in the bills.

Elected Members Comments:

- Include the powers of the Minister being an over-reach in regards to the Planning Bill.
- The first sentence, second paragraph, on page 2 of the submission to be reworded to acknowledge kaitiakitanga and safeguard long term intergenerational environmental stewardship those who are here today and in the future.
- The next sentence to be reworded to “Local communities and tangata whenua, iwi through territorial authorities..”.

Resolved

1. *That the report “Proposed Council Submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill” be received.*
2. *That the Committee provides any recommendations or amendments to the draft submission.*

3. That the Committee delegates to the Mayor and CEO the final sign off of the submission.

**Councillor Hill / Ross
CARRIED**

13 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

Pastor Mark Kingi closed the meeting with a prayer at 11.29am.



S Kingi
Chairperson and Deputy Mayor

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