

Whangarei District Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 24 July, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Civic Centre, Te Iwitahi, 9 Rust Avenue

In Attendance	His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo Cr Gavin Benney Cr Nicholas Connop Cr Ken Couper Cr Phil Halse (Teams) Cr Patrick Holmes Cr Scott McKenzie Cr Marie Olsen Cr Carol Peters Cr Simon Reid Cr Phoenix Ruka Cr Paul Yovich
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Not in Attendance	Cr Jayne Golightly Cr Deborah Harding
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Scribe	D.Garner (Democracy Adviser)
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Administrative matters

- Meeting livestreamed
- Elected Members attending electronically
- Supplementary agenda, extra ordinary business:
 - Confidential agenda Item 1.9 Litigation Update – July 2025
- Item 6.7 was taken before Item 6.1.
- Item 6.9 was taken before Item 6.2

1. Karakia/Prayer

His Worship the Mayor opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Declarations of Interest / Take Whaipānga

No declarations of interest were made in the open section of the meeting.

3. Apologies / Kore Tae Mai

Cr's Jayne Golightly, Phil Halse, Deborah Harding (absent) and Ken Couper (late arrival).

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Carol Peters

That the apologies be sustained.

Carried

4. Public Forum / Huihuinga-a-tangata

4.1 Public Forum - July 2025

Verena Pschom - Support for Charitable Youth Education Trust
(Questionable Research Labs)

5. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting of the Whangarei District Council / Whakatau Meneti

5.1 Minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on 26 June 2025

Moved By Cr Simon Reid

Seconded By Cr Carol Peters

That the minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held Thursday 26 June 2025, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

5.2 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 1 July 2025

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held Tuesday 1 July 2025, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

5.3 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 3 July 2025

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held Thursday 3 July 2025, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed

and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

Carried

6. Decision Reports / Whakatau Rīpoata

6.1 Northland Inc Shareholding Decision

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Ken Couper

1. Receives the letter dated 5 May 2025 from the Joint Regional /Economic Development Committee regarding Whangarei District Council's shareholding in Northland Inc (Attachment 1).
2. Receives the review of the benefits of Council's involvement in Northland Inc
3. Agrees to continue as a shareholder in Northland Inc for a further one-year period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 and approves funding of \$587,000 in the 2026-27 financial year to the Investment and Growth Reserve (IGR).

Carried

Cr's Marie Olsen and Paul Yovich requested their votes against the motion be recorded.

6.2 Ōākura Sports Park and Wetland Development Update and Decision on Budget Adjustments

Moved By Cr Scott McKenzie

Seconded By Cr Gavin Benney

That the Council:

1. Notes that following the Validation Stage, the Ōākura Sports Park and Wetland Development project is on track and does not require additional budget; and
2. Approves additional capital spend of \$164,000 in 2025-26 financial year which will be offset by external income from the Lottery Grants Board towards a playground; and
3. Approves the adjustment of Ōākura Sports Park and Wetland Development capital budget in the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years to align with the redirection of \$662,715 unclaimed Better Off Funding towards a wetland; and
4. Approves bringing forward budgets of \$613,206 Year 3 and \$836,380 in Year 4 of the LTP to Years 2 and Year 3, with

\$662,040 in Year 2 and \$787,546 in Year 3, to align with the planned delivery of the project.

Carried

A break was taken from 11:06am to 11:20am.

6.3 Agreement in Principle - Disposal of Land Acquired Under the Public Works Act 1928 - Pukekauri Dam

Moved By Cr Ken Couper

Seconded By Cr Carol Peters

That the Council:

1. **Approves** the Agreement in Principle with Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board Incorporated for the framework for collaboration on the future of the Pukekauri (Takahiwai) Dam lands acquired under the Public Works Act 1928.
2. **Authorises** the Chief Executive to sign the Agreement in Principle on behalf of the Whangārei District Council.
3. **Notes** that the work of the joint working group will proceed utilising existing internal and external resources and knowledge from both parties as budgets allow.

Carried

6.4 Extension Contract Roadside Refuse and Recycling Collection and Transfer Stations – Contract 17046

Moved By Cr Gavin Benney

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That the Council:

Approves the value of CON17046: Roadside Refuse and Recycling Collection and Transfer Station, with Northland Waste Limited, to be increased by \$18,215,827 (excluding GST) from \$43,203,231 to \$61,419,058 (excluding GST) and to extend the contract from 1st July 2025 to 30 June 2027 as provided for in the contract.

Carried

6.5 Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2025

Moved By Cr Marie Olsen

Seconded By Cr Phoenix Ruka

That the Whangarei District Council

1. Determines that the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2025, as included in Attachment 1:

- a. is in the most appropriate form of the bylaw; and
 - b. does not give rise to any implications under, and is not inconsistent with, the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.
2. Makes the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2025 as provided in Attachment 1.
3. Confirms the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2025 comes into force on 28 August 2025.
4. Delegates all of its responsibilities, duties and powers under the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw to the Chief Executive, except the power to:
 - a. approve controls under Clause 11;
 - b. set fees;
 - c. make a decision for which a Council resolution is required; and
 - d. hear and decided on any appeal process.
5. Authorises the Chief Executive to make any minor edits or amendments to the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw to correct any spelling errors or make typographical errors and/or to reflect decisions made by the Council at this meeting.

Carried

6.6 Tree Removal within the Drummond Park Scenic Reserve and A H Reed Park Scenic Reserve

Moved By Cr Ken Couper

Seconded By Cr Carol Peters

That the Council, acting as the administering body under the Reserves 1977, under delegated powers, approves:

1. The removal of selected trees within the Drummond Park Scenic Reserve, for the purpose of realigning the Drummond Walking Track, pursuant s42(1) of the Reserves Act 1977; and
2. The removal of one tree within the A H Reed Kauri Memorial Park Scenic Reserve, required to ensure public safety, pursuant to s42(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Carried

6.7 Alcohol Control Bylaw - Confirmation of alcohol ban areas and correction

Moved By Cr Gavin Benney

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That Council:

1. Amends the Alcohol Control Bylaw, as shown in Attachment I, to incorporate clauses 12.3, 12.4 and 12.5, which were omitted by error from the Alcohol Control Bylaw amended by Council on 12 December 2024.
2. Acknowledges further submissions received from ratepayer groups at:
 - Bland Bay
 - Whangarua South
 - Teal Bay
 - Tutukaka Coast

alongside previous submitters.

3. Notes that the ratepayer groups unanimously support the bylaw to be extended to the areas in Section 6 based on ;
 - (a) Evidence of high levels of crime or disorder in the public places prior to the bylaw first being adopted
 - (b) Support from the local Police Officers that the bylaw is an effective tool and is appropriate and proportionate
 - (c) Anecdotal evidence previously provided to council

Acknowledging that under Section 147 A and 147 B of the Local Government Act 2002 there is no time period stipulated for that evidence to be considered.

4. Accepts that while there is limited 'recent' evidence of the likelihood that a high level of crime or disorder has occurred, the simple explanation for that is that this is because the bylaw has been effective.
5. Accept that there is nationwide evidence of disorder and abuse on sports fields and that much of this is fuelled by alcohol on the sidelines.
6. Includes the following areas to be mapped in the final adopted bylaw as 24/7 alcohol ban areas
 - Bland Bay from Punipuni Rd south
 - Oakura Bay, as mapped, but extended to the northernmost point of Ohawini Bay
 - The Oakura Bay Sports complex in Wharua Rd, Oakura including the wetlands and proposed playground area
 - Teal Bay including the reserve area at the southern end of Teal Bay
 - The northern point of Sandy Bay to Whale Bay

- The northern end of Totukaka Marina to Tongatu Rd, Ngunguru
- Whale Tail Park Ngunguru
- Ngunguru Sports Park

Procedural Motion

Moved By Cr Nicholas Connop

Seconded By Cr Patrick Holmes

That this item does lie on the table and not be discussed at this meeting.

On the procedural motion being put Cr Nicholas Connop called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper		X	
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie			X
Cr Marie Olsen		X	
Cr Carol Peters		X	
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka		X	
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
Results	3	8	1

The procedural Motion was Lost (3 to 8)

Amendment

Moved By Cr Ken Couper

Seconded By His Worship the Mayor

That Council:

- I. Amends the Alcohol Control Bylaw, as shown in Attachment I, to incorporate clauses 12.3, 12.4 and 12.5, which were omitted by error front the Alcohol Control Bylaw amended by Council on 12 December 2024.
2. Acknowledges further submissions received from ratepayer groups at:
 - Bland Bay

- Whangamiro South
- Teal Bay
- Tutukaka Coast

alongside previous submitters.

3. Notes that the ratepayer groups unanimously support the bylaw to be extended to the areas in Section 6 based on ;
 - (a) Evidence of high levels of crime or disorder in the public places prior to the bylaw first being adopted
 - (b) Support from the local Police Officers that the bylaw is an effective tool and is appropriate and proportionate
 - (c) Anecdotal evidence previously provided to council

Acknowledging that under Section 147 A and 147 B of the Local Government Act 2002 there is no time period stipulated for that evidence to be considered.

4. Accepts that while there is limited 'recent' evidence of the likelihood that a high level of crime or disorder has occurred, the simple explanation for that is that this is because the bylaw has been effective.
5. Accept that there is nationwide evidence of disorder and abuse on sports fields and that much of this is fuelled by alcohol on the sidelines.
6. Includes the following areas to be mapped in the final adopted bylaw as 24/7 alcohol ban areas
 - Bland Bay from Punipuni Rd south
 - Oakura Bay, as mapped, but extended to the northernmost point of Ohawini Bay
 - The Oakura Bay Sports complex in Wharua Rd, Oakura including the wetlands and proposed playground area
 - Teal Bay including the reserve area at the southern end of Teal Bay
 - The northern point of Sandy Bay to Whale Bay
 - The northern end of Totukaka Marina to Tongatu Rd, Ngunguru
 - Whale Tail Park Ngunguru
 - Ngunguru Sports Park
7. That Cr Gavin Benney will work with staff to map the areas listed in point 6.

Carried

The Motion was taken in parts.

On the Motion being put Cr Simon Reid called for a division on recommendations 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Marie Olsen	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid	X		
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich	X		
Results	12	0	0

**Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 were Carried (12 to 0)
Unanimous**

On the motion being put Cr Simon Reid called for a division on recommendations 4 and 5:

	For	Against	Abstain
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes			X
Cr Scott McKenzie			X
Cr Marie Olsen	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid	X		
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich	X		
Results	10	0	2

Recommendations 4 and 5 were Carried (10 to 0)

Cr Ken Couper joined the meeting at 9:45am during Item 6.7.

6.8 Temporary Road Closure - Northland Car Club Motor Sport Event Series (September - October 2025)

Moved By Cr Simon Reid

Seconded By Cr Marie Olsen

That the Council:

1. Approves the temporary closure of the following roads to ordinary traffic for the Northland Car Club Motor Sport Event Series (September - October 2025) on the following date's in accordance with section 342 (1)(b) and Schedule 10 Clause 11 of the Local Government Act 1974.

Sunday 14th September 2025

Doctors Hill Road, from intersection of Mountfield Road to 400m from SH1.

Period of Closure: 8am to 5:30pm.

Sunday 5th October 2025

Sime Road, 100m from intersection with Marsden Point Road to 100m from intersection with Te One Street.

Kepa Road, complete closure.

Period of Closure: 8am to 5:30pm.

2. Approves the temporary closure of the side roads off the roads to be closed for up to 100 metres from the intersection for safety purposes.
3. Delegates to the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee and General Manager Transport & Community Infrastructure the power to give public notice of these proposed temporary closures, to consider any objections and to either approve, cancel or amend any or all of the temporary road closures if applicable.

Carried

6.9 Local Waters Done Well Council Controlled Organisation

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That the Council:

1. Approves,
 - A. That, subject to the same confirmation from the Kaipara and Far North District Councils, to work with the two other district

councils of Northland to establish an asset owning Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) to provide drinking water and wastewater services in Northland.

- B. That should Far North District Council resolve not to join a regional CCO then, subject to the same confirmation from the Kaipara District Council, to work with the Kaipara District Council to establish an asset owning Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) to provide drinking water and wastewater services in Northland.
2. Confirms it will continue to provide stormwater services through an In-house Business Unit.
3. Approves the creation of a Water Services Delivery Plan where:
 - a) Water and Wastewater services are delivered by a regional CCO
 - b) Stormwater services remain with their respective councils effectively status quo (one section per council)
 - c) Opportunities for government funding to support critical projects be sought
4. Approves that the following initial principles be incorporated in the formation of a regional CCO:
 - a) That initially financials are ring-fenced to each council.
 - b) That initially water charges are not harmonised across the three founding council areas.
 - c) That the CCO review ring-fencing of finances and harmonising charges within 3 years from its commencement date.
 - d) That a shareholder Council be formed that includes two representatives of each founding Council, of which at least one must be an elected member.
 - e) When scheduling growth projects, the CCO is aligned with each council's growth strategies.
5. Approves:
 - f) that the Whangārei District Councils enters into a Commitment Agreement with the Far North and Kaipara District Councils to establish a CCO by 1 July 2027
 - g) That should Far North District Council resolve not to join a regional CCO then the Whangārei District Councils enters

into a Commitment Agreement with the Kaipara District Council to establish a CCO by 1 July 2027.

Carried

Cr Phil Halse left the meeting at 10:58am after Item 6.9.

7. Public Excluded Business / Rāhui Tangata

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Patrick Holmes

That the public be excluded from the following parts of proceedings of this meeting. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered		Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for passing this resolution
1.1	Confidential minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on 26 June 2025	Good reason to withhold information exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
1.2	Confidential minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 1 July 2025		
1.3	Transfer of Building and or land		
1.4	Appointment of Independent Hearing Commissioner Panel		
1.5	ECHO Update		
1.6	Appointment of a Hapū Trustee on the Whangarei Art Trust Board 2025-2028		
1.7	Reappointment of NECT2021 Board Trustee		

1.8	Airport Location Study Outcomes		
1.9	Litigation Update – July 2025		

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, are as follows:

Item	Grounds	Section
1.1	For the reasons as stated in the open minutes.	
1.2	For the reasons as stated in the open minutes.	
1.3	To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	S7(2)(i)
1.4	To protect the privacy of natural persons including that of a deceased person. To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	S7(2)(a) S7(2)(i)
1.5	To maintain legal professional privilege.	S7(2)(g)
1.6	To protect the privacy of natural persons including that of a deceased person.	S7(2)(a)
1.7	To protect the privacy of natural persons including that of a deceased person.	S6(a)
1.8	To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	S7(2)(i)
1.9	To maintain legal professional privilege.	S7(2)(g)

Carried

A break was taken from 11:55am to 12:06pm.

8. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui

His Worship the Mayor closed the meeting at 1:04pm.

Confirmed this 28th day of August 2025

His Worship the Mayor (Chairperson)