

Whangarei District Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 28 August, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Civic Centre, Te Iwitihi, 9 Rust Avenue

In Attendance

His Worship the Mayor Vince Cocurullo
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Deborah Harding
Cr Patrick Holmes
Cr Scott McKenzie
Cr Marie Olsen
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid
Cr Phoenix Ruka
Cr Paul Yovich

Scribe

D.Garner (Democracy Adviser)

Administrative matters

- Meeting livestreamed
- Supplementary agenda – 6.16 Funding Agreement with Forum North Trust

Secretarial Note

Cr Phil Halse chaired the meeting as Acting Chairperson, until Item 6.8.

1. Karakia/Prayer

Cr Phoenix Ruka opened the meeting with karakia.

2. Declarations of Interest / Take Whaipānga

Item 6.14 – Continuity of Council Business Over the 2025 Election Period

3. Apologies / Kore Tae Mai

His Worship the Mayor (late arrival)

Moved By Cr Phil Halse

Seconded By Cr Carol Peters

That the apology be sustained.

Carried

4. Public Forum / Huihuinga-a-tangata

There were no speakers at Public Forum.

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 24 July 2025

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Nicholas Connop

That the minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held Thursday 24 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 Ripoata

6.1 Temporary Road Closure Request – International Rally of Whangarei 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 International Rally of Whangarei 2025 on the following dates in accordance with the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965.

Wednesday 5th November to Sunday 9th November 2025

(SERVICE PARK)

Pohe Island Road, from start to end including the carpark.

Period of Closure: 8am Wednesday 5th November to 8pm Sunday 9th November 2025.

Friday 7th November 2025

(CEREMONIAL START)

James Street, from Robert Street to Cameron Street - including Cameron Street Mall.

John Street, from Robert Street to Cameron Street.

Cameron Street, from James Street to Walton Street.

Period of Closure: 3pm to 7pm.

Saturday 8th November 2025

(Special Stage 1 HOUTO)

Houto Road, from the intersection of State Highway 15 (Mangakahia Road) to the intersection with the Whangarei District and Kaipara District Councils' Boundary - including intersection/s with Norvill Road (No Exit), Morgan Road (No Exit).

Period of Closure: 6am to 10:30am.

(Special Stage 8 KIRIKOPUNI)

Kirikopuni Road, from the intersection of Whangarei District and Kaipara District Councils' Boundary to the intersection with State Highway 15 (Mangakahia Road).

Period of closure: 3pm to 7:30pm

(Special Stage 9 & 10 POHE ISLAND – TE MATAU A POHE BRIDGE)

Dave Culham Drive, from Port Road to Riverside Drive - includes Te Matau a Pohe Bridge.

Period of Closure: 1:45pm to 10pm.

Sunday 9th November 2025

(Special Stage 11& 15 RUARANGI)

Ruarangi Road, from the intersection of Mangapai Road to the intersection with Paparoa Road - including intersection/s with Graham Road.

Period of Closure: 6:45am to 3:45pm

(Special Stage 12 & 16 WAIKIEKIE)

Waikiekie North Road, from the intersection of Paparoa Road to the intersection with Waikiekie North Road & Walker Road.

Walker Road, from the intersection of Waikiekie North Road to the intersection with Neville Road & Hosking Road.

Neville Road, from the intersection of Walker Road & Hosking Road to the intersection with Neville Road & Harrison Road.

Harrison Road, from the intersection of Neville Road to the Whangarei District and Kaipara District Councils' Boundary.

Stead Road, from the intersection of the Whangarei District and Kaipara District Councils' Boundary to the intersection with

Hartnell Road - including intersection/s with Leech Road (No Exit).

Hartnell Road, from the intersection of Stead Road to the intersection with Ararua Road.

Period of Closure: 7am to 4:30pm

(Special Stage 13 & 17 OMANA)

Omana Road, from the intersection of Tauraroa Road to the intersection with the Whangarei District and Kaipara District Councils' Boundary - including intersection/s with Leslie Road (No Exit), Kaitaringa Road (No Exit).

Pikiwahine Road, from the Whangarei District and Kaipara District Councils' Boundary to the intersection with Mititai Road - including intersection/s with Hillcrest Road (No Exit).

Period of Closure: 7:30am to 4:30pm

(Special Stage 14 & 18 BULL)

Bull Road, from the intersection of Ararua Road to the intersection with the Whangarei District and Kaipara District Councils' Boundary.

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

2. Approves the temporary closure of the side roads off the roads to be closed for up to 100 meters 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

6.2 Temporary Road Closure Request – Northland Car Club October 2025 Event

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

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 October 2025 event

on the following date in accordance with section 342 (1)(b) and Schedule 10 Clause 11 of the Local Government Act 1974.

Sunday 5th October 2025

Waiwarawara Drive, from Theodore Drive to Casey Road (includes the Casey Road/Waiwarawara Drive roundabout and Theodore/Waiwarawara Drive roundabout).

Roosevelt Road, from Theodore Drive to Waiwarawara Drive.

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

6.3 Temporary Road Closure Request – Whangarei Fireworks Spectacular 2025

Moved By Cr Simon Reid

Seconded By Cr Scott McKenzie

That the Council:

1. Approves the proposal to temporarily close the following roads to ordinary traffic for the Whangarei Fireworks Spectacular on the following date in accordance with the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965.

Saturday 1st November 2025

Okara Drive, from the roundabout at Okara Drive & Porowini Ave to the roundabout at Okara Drive & Port Road.

Period of Closure: 2pm to 10pm

2. Approves the proposal to temporarily close the side roads off the roads to be closed for up to 100 meters 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

6.4 Adoption of Whangarei Events Strategy 2025-2030

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Scott McKenzie

That the Council:

1. Receives the Whangārei Events Strategy 2025-2030
2. Adopts the Whangārei Events Strategy 2025-2030

Carried

6.5 Food Businesses Grading Bylaw – Statutory Review

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Scott McKenzie

That Council:

1. Endorses the 'Food Businesses Grading Bylaw review – Findings' report in Attachment 1.
2. Agrees that the statutory review of the Food Businesses Grading Bylaw 2016 is complete, including that:
 - a. a bylaw is still the most appropriate way to help protect the public from foodborne illnesses caused by unsafe food handling practices in food businesses;
 - b. the current Bylaw does not give rise to any implications and is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990;
 - c. the current Bylaw structure and wording could be improved.
3. Directs staff to prepare a Statement of Proposal to amend the Food Businesses Grading Bylaw consistent with the Findings in Attachment 1.

Carried

6.6 Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw - Controls

Moved By Cr Nicholas Connop

Seconded By Cr Jayne Golightly

That the Council:

1. Approves the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw Control 2025 as provided in Attachment 1.
2. Confirms the Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw Control 2025 commences on 28 August 2025.

Carried

6.7 Alcohol Control Bylaw - Ratification of coastal alcohol bans

Moved By Cr Gavin Benney

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That Council:

1. Determines that in each of the areas mapped in Attachment 1—
 - a. a high level of crime or disorder (being crime or disorder caused or made worse by alcohol consumption in the area concerned) is likely to arise in the area to which the bylaw is intended to apply if the bylaw is not made; and
 - b. the ban is appropriate and proportionate in the light of that crime or disorder; and
 - c. the ban can be justified as a reasonable limitation on people's rights and freedoms.
2. Declares, under clause 6.1 of the Alcohol Control Bylaw, the areas mapped in Attachment 1 as alcohol ban areas, where the consumption, bringing in and possession of alcohol in public places is prohibited at all times, with effect from 28 September 2025.

Carried

His Worship the Mayor joined the meeting at 9:37am.

Cr Phil Halse vacated the chair and His Worship the Mayor Chaired the remainder of the meeting.

6.8 Local Waters Done Well – Water Services Delivery Model

Moved By Cr Phil Halse

Seconded By His Worship the Mayor

That the Whangarei District Council

- a. Approves the adoption of the joint Water Services Delivery Plan
- b. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make minor editorial changes if required to the joint Water Services Delivery Plan to allow for certification

- c. Adopts the Commitment Agreement between the three Northland district councils to establish a CCO for water services delivery
- d. Authorises the Chief Executive to make minor editorial changes if required to the Commitment Agreement including certification statements
- e. Authorises the Chief Executive to execute the Commitment Agreement
- f. Approves unbudgeted funds of up to \$500,000 (excluding GST) to be made available to the CCO establishment project, noting that:
 - i. all costs will be allocated equally between the Water and Wastewater Activities, with a corresponding reduction to each Reserve
 - ii. all costs incurred by Council for the CCO establishment will be ring-fenced for transfer to the CCO once it is established.
 - iii. efforts to access external funding for the purposes of the CCO establishment will continue.
 - iv. monies already contributed from the Department of Internal Affairs to the Council for Local Waters Done Well will be utilised before Council funding is used.
- g. Authorises our Whangarei District Councils CE to sign the Certification report (Page 173 of the agenda).
- h. Notes that the current Elected Members on this Working Group supports the above and reinforce the need for the incoming councils to appoint Elected Members early in the next Council term to progress the work necessary to complete Local Waters Done Well Northland.

Carried

A short break was taken from 10:21am to 10:24am.

Cr's Ken Couper, Nicholas Connop and Phoenix Ruka did not immediately rejoin the meeting following the break.

Cr Phoenix Ruka rejoined the meeting at 10:25am.

Cr Nicholas Connop rejoined the meeting at 10:26am.

Cr Ken Couper rejoined the meeting at 10:27am.

6.9 Poroti Springs Water Sharing Agreement in Principle

Moved By Cr Simon Reid

Seconded By Cr Deborah Harding

That the Council:

1. Agrees to share part of its raw water allocation from the Waipao stream with the Whatitiri Māori Reserves Trust.
2. Approves the attached agreement in principle covering the sharing of water
3. Authorises the Chief Executive to make minor changes to the agreement as necessary and to sign the agreement.

On the 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 Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Deborah Harding	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	14	0	0

**The Motion was Carried (14 to 0)
Unanimous**

A break was taken from 10:55am to 11:18am.

6.10 Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee - Review of Terms of Reference 2023-2025 Decision

Procedural Motion

Moved By Cr Deborah Harding
Seconded By Cr Patrick Holmes

That this item does lie on the table until the next Council meeting on 25 September 2025.

Carried

6.11 Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check – Final draft report

Moved By Cr Phoenix Ruka
Seconded By His Worship the Mayor

That Council:

1. **Receives** the independent final draft Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check Report.
2. **Provides feedback** on the final draft Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check Report and its recommendations.
3. **Note** that the final draft of the Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check Report was presented and received by Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee.
4. **Note** that Buddle Findlay and Whāia Legal will consider any feedback provided from Te Kārearea and Council and will prepare and submit a final report to Council.
5. **Note** that following receipt of the final report, Council staff intend to prepare an action plan in response to the recommendations of the Health Check for consideration by Te Kārearea and Council.

Carried

6.12 Parua Bay Skate Park Decision on Externally-Funded Budget

Moved By Cr Patrick Holmes
Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That the Council:

1. Approves additional capital spend of up to \$210,000 (excluding GST) in the 2025-26 financial year;
2. Notes that this capital spend will be reimbursed by the Parua Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association Incorporated (PBRRAI) with funding raised from the Lottery Community Facilities Fund.
3. Notes that Council has received these funds from PBRRAI for the purpose of construction of the Parua Bay Skate Park.

Carried

6.13 Land Transport Procurement Strategy 2025-28

Moved By Cr Simon Reid

Seconded By His Worship the Mayor

That the Council:

1. Approves the Whangarei District Council Land Transport Procurement Strategy 2025-2028.
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make non-material changes to the Land Transport Procurement Strategy 2025-2028 prior to submitting it to the New Zealand Transport Agency for their endorsement.

Carried

6.14 Continuity of Council Business Over the 2025 Election Period

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Scott McKenzie

That the Council:

1. Notes in relation to the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group:
 - a. That the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group continues during the election period.
 - b. That His Worship the Mayor will continue as Council's representative on the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group until the day after the declaration of the results of the election.
 - c. That there will be no Council representative on the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group from the day after the results of the election until the incoming Council has appointed its new representative.
 - d. That in the event of an emergency, and emergency powers are needed, the Minister for Emergency Management can declare a state of local emergency.
2. Confirms the following Committees are deemed not to be discharged on the coming into office of the Council elected at the October 2025 triennial elections, with the Elected Member

representation on Committees deemed not to be discharged to be reviewed post elections.:

- a. District Licensing Committee
 - b. Airport Noise Management Committee
3. Confirms that the City Centre Committee is discharged with the reestablishment and membership of this committee to be reviewed post election.
 4. In relation to the District Licensing Committee, Council recommends that:
 - a. the Chief Executive appoints Cr Ken Couper as Commissioner to the District Licensing Committee under s 193 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012; and
 - b. Recommends that the appointment commences from the day after declaration of the results of the October 2025 triennial elections and ceases when a decision on the appointment of a new Deputy Chairperson is made.
 5. Disestablishes all working groups or parties established by Council with the exception of the Northland Water Services Working Group, the continuance and membership of which will be considered post election.

Carried

Cr Ken Couper declared an interest as Deputy Chairperson of the District Licensing Committee.

Cr Marie Olsen requested her vote against the motion be recorded.

6.15 Decision-making over the 2025 Election period

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Scott McKenzie

That the Council:

1. Notes that the final meeting of Council will be the Finance Committee, held on 25 September 2025, and that all other Council meetings will cease then.

Decision making prior to the official declaration of results

2. Delegates to any two of either the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and the Chairperson of either the Finance, Infrastructure, Strategy, Planning and Development, Community Development or Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Standing Committee, the power to make, on behalf of the Council, urgent decisions that may be

needed between the final council meeting and the day the term of office of current members ends.

3. Notes that if a significant matter requires consideration following the final Council meeting and up to the end of the term of current members, an extraordinary Council meeting will be called.

Decision making after the official declaration of results

4. Delegates to the Chief Executive, the full powers of Council, except for those responsibilities duties and powers specifically excluded in clause 32(1)(a)- h) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 or in any other Act, from the day after the Electoral Officer declares the result of the election until the convening of the first meeting of the new Council, scheduled for 05 November 2025.
5. Approves the increase of the Chief Executive's financial authority to \$10million (excluding GST) from the day after the Electoral Officer declares the result of the election until the convening of the first meeting of the new Council, scheduled for 05 November 2025.
6. Notes that if any urgent decision-making process is employed during this period it will be reported to Council or relevant Committee, as soon as practicable in the new Triennium.
7. Notes that if a significant matter requires consideration following the first meeting of the new Council and the appointment of Deputy Mayor and committee chairpersons, an extraordinary Council meeting will be called.

Carried

6.16 Funding Agreement with Forum North Trust

Moved By Cr Scott McKenzie

Seconded By His Worship the Mayor

That the Council:

1. Receives the report.
2. Approves additional operational spend of \$200,000 plus GST in the 2025-26 financial year which will be offset by external income from Forum North Trust.
3. Approves the funding agreement between Whangarei District Council and Forum North Trust (Attachment 1).

Carried

Cr's Gavin Benney and Simon Reid requested their votes against the motion be recorded.

7. Information Reports / Ngā Pūrongo Kōrero

There were no Information Reports.

8. Public Excluded Business / Rāhui Tangata

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Marie Olsen

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 Whangarei District Council 24 July 2025	Good reason to withhold information exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
1.2	Chair's Report – August 2025		
1.3	Approval of Procurement Plan		
1.4	Storm Water Project		
1.5	Property Update		
1.6	Amendments to Trust Deed		

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
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1.1	For the reasons stated in the open minutes	
1.2	To protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or it the subject of the information. To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	Section 7(2)(b)(ii) Section 7(2)(i)
1.3	To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial activities.	S7(2)(h)
1.4	To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial activities. To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	S7(2)(h) S7(2)(i)
1.5	To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.	S7(2)(i) S7(2)(j)
1.6	To maintain legal professional privilege	S7(2)(g)

Carried

9. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui

His Worship the Mayor closed the meeting with prayer at 12:33pm.

Confirmed this 25th day of September 2025

His Worship the Mayor (Chairperson)