

Whangarei District Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, 12 May, 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
Cr Deborah Harding
Cr Patrick Holmes
Cr Scott McKenzie
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid
Cr Paul Yovich

Not in Attendance

Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Marie Olsen
Cr Phoenix Ruka

Scribe

N. Pestana (Team Leader, Democracy)

Administrative matters

- Copies of all submissions provided to Councillors
- Late submissions in Volume 12 tabled at the meeting.
- Meetings livestreamed
- Hearing procedure outlined

1. Karakia/Prayer

His Worship the Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Declarations of Interest / Take Whaipānga

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Apologies / Kore Tae Mai

Cr's Marie Olsen and Phoenix Ruka (apologies) and Cr Gavin Benney (late arrival).

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Simon Reid

That the apology be sustained.

Carried

4. Decision Reports / Whakatau Rīpoata

4.1 2025-26 Annual Plan and 2025-26 Fees and Charges - Submissions and Hearings including unaccounted for and late submissions

Moved By His Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Phil Halse

That the Council:

1. Receive and hear the submissions relating to the Consultation Document for the 2025-26 Annual Plan.
2. Receive and hear the submissions relating to the Statement of Proposal for the 2025-26 Fees and Charges.
3. That any submissions identified as being received after the close of the submissions period (prior to the closure of this meeting) be accepted for consideration by Council.

Carried

Submitters who were heard are listed:

David Colley – Objection to proposed rates increases.

Alan Agnew – Objection to changing the location of the Whangarei Airport from Onerahi. Objection to proposed rates increases.

Robin Lieffering – Pensioner Housing.

Dean Jones – Cap rates annually to no more than the annual rate of inflation, with a max of 4%.

Wayne Valentin – Objection to proposed changes to rural rates.

Matthew Mathias - Onerahi Football Club.

Mel Atkins – Objection to proposed changes to rural rates. Stormwater Targeted Rate: Option 2. Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge: Option 2. Relief for Farmed, Business Zoned Land: Option 2.

Neil McLeod – Stormwater Targeted Rate: Option 1. Relief for Farmed, Business Zoned Land: Option 2.

Neil McLeod for Marilyn Cox (Waipu Residents & Ratepayers Association) –

Paul M Smith – Stormwater Targeted Rate: Option 2. Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge: Option 2.

Peter Gregory – Oppose relief for Farmed, Business Zoned Land.

Frank Newman – Objection to proposed rates increases and debt levels.

Val Hart - Northland Car Club.

Marnie Muirhead – Objection to proposed changes to rural rates.

Christopher Taplin – other.

Tim Robinson (Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Northland (Inc) T/A NorthChamber) – Objection to proposed rates increases. Stormwater Targeted Rate: Option 2. Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge: Option 2. Relief for Farmed, Business Zoned Land: Option 2.

Neil Campbell – Objection to proposed rates increases.

Evelyn Johnson – Objection to proposed changes to rural rates.

Melissa Arseneault - Whangarei Heads Citizen's Association.

Melissa Arseneault – Stormwater Targeted Rate: Option 2. Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge: Option 2. Relief for Farmed, Business Zoned Land: Option 2.

Janet Atkinson – Objection to justification of proposed rates increases.

David Baldwin – Objection to the 2025/26 Annual Plan review and proposed rates increases.

John Goulter – Objection to proposed rates increases.

Noah Hewlett on behalf of Sarah Hewlett – Objection to proposed changes to rural rates.

Neil Thomas – Objection to proposed changes to rural rates.

Karl Hansen (HKRS Holdings Ltd) – Objection to proposed rates increases.

Michael Goudie (Marsden Cove Ltd) – Stormwater Targeted Rate: Option 2. Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge: Option 2. Relief for Farmed, Business Zoned Land: Option 1.

Clare Davies-Colley – Rates increases for commercial ratepayers.

Ron Esveld – Stormwater Targeted Rate: Option 2. Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge: Option 1. Relief for Farmed, Business Zoned Land: Option 1. Objection to proposed rates increases.

Mark Rasmussen – Stormwater Targeted Rate: Option 1. Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge: Option 1. Relief for Farmed, Business Zoned Land: Option 1.

A short break was taken from 9.47am to 10am.

A tea break was taken from 10.00am to 11.17am.

A lunch break was taken from 11.45 to 1pm.

Cr Benney joined the meeting at 1pm after the lunch break.

A short break was taken from 2.42am to 2.57pm.

Cr McKenzie and Cr Connop did not rejoin the meeting after the break.

5. Public Excluded Business / Rāhui Tangata

There was no business in public excluded.

6. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui

The meeting concluded at 3.07pm.

Confirmed this 22nd day of May 2025

His Worship the Mayor (Chairperson)