

## **Whangarei District Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, 22 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 (Teams)  
Cr Ken Couper  
Cr Phil Halse  
Cr Deborah Harding  
Cr Patrick Holmes  
Cr Scott McKenzie  
Cr Carol Peters  
Cr Simon Reid  
Cr Phoenix Ruka  
Cr Paul Yovich

**Not in Attendance**

Cr Jayne Golightly  
Cr Marie Olsen

**Scribe** N. Pestana (Team Leader, Democracy)

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### **Administrative matters**

- Meeting livestreamed
- Cr Connop attended virtually
- Supplementary reports:
  - Item 4.1.1 Public Forum – additional speaker
  - Item 7.8 Kamo Road T2 Lane
  - Item 7.9 Northland Event Centre Roof Replacement Working Group
  - Confidential Item 1.5 CCTO Update Additional Information
- Withdrawn - Confidential Item 1.4 Kamo Rd T2 Lane
- Items 7.5, 7.8 and 7.9 were brought forward in the order of the agenda.

### **1. Karakia/Prayer**

His Worship the Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

**2. Declarations of Interest / Take Whaipānga**

No interests were declared.

**3. Apologies / Kore Tae Mai**

Cr's Marie Olsen and Jayne Golightly (absent) and Cr Ken Couper (late arrival).

**Moved By** His Worship the Mayor

**Seconded By** Cr Carol Peters

That the apologies be sustained.

**Carried**

**4. Public Forum**

**4.1 Public Forum - May 2025**

Annette Moncur - Requesting funding for safety barriers after third car crash into the homes at 2A and 2B Millers Lane, Tikupunga.

Bruce Copeland - Present petitions from concerned communities against sand mining in the Whangarei District.

**5. Police Report**

**5.1 Police Report - May 2025**

**Moved By** His Worship the Mayor

**Seconded By** Cr Carol Peters

That Council note the report on Police activities.

**Carried**

*Cr Couper joined the meeting at 9.41am during Item 5.1.*

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

**6.1 Minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on 29 April 2025**

**Moved By** Cr Carol Peters

**Seconded By** Cr Simon Reid

That the minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held Tuesday 29 April 2025, including the confidential minutes, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

**Carried**

## **6.2 Minutes of the Whangarei District Council Meeting held on 12 May 2025**

**Moved By** Cr Deborah Harding

**Seconded By** Cr Simon Reid

That the minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held Monday 12 May 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**

## **6.3 Open Minutes of the Civic Honours Selection Committee held on 7 May 2025**

**Moved By** His Worship the Mayor

**Seconded By** Cr Scott McKenzie

That the open minutes of the Civic Honours Selection Committee meeting held Wednesday 7 May 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**

### **Extra ordinary business**

Subsequent to the agenda being circulated Item 7.8 Kamo Road T2 Lane and Item 7.9 Northland Event Centre Roof Replacement Working Group and Confidential Item 1.5 CCTO Update Additional Information were distributed separately but not within the time frame specified in LGOIMA.

**Moved By** His Worship the Mayor

**Seconded By** Cr Phil Halse

That Council considers Item 7.8 Kamo Road T2 Lane, Item 7.9 Northland Event Centre Roof Replacement Working Group and Confidential Item 1.5 CCTO Update Additional Information at today's meeting.

**Carried**

*Items 7.8 and 7.9 were taken after Item 6.3. Item 7.1 was taken after Items 7.8 and 7.9.*

## **7. Decision Reports / Whakatau Rīpoata**

### **7.1 Ngunguru Seawall - Accessibility Ramp**

**Moved By** Cr Scott McKenzie

**Seconded By** Cr Carol Peters

That the Council:

1. Notes that Council Adopted the Regional Accessibility Strategy in June 2024 which includes an aim that everyone can access popular beaches. However, funding for the implementation of the Strategy was not approved in the 2024 Long Term Plan.
2. Notes that the current seawall project is funded through renewals and is largely a like for like replacement.
3. Notes that previous designs which incorporated accessibility ramps were rejected by NRC as they involved too much reclamation.
4. Notes that the incorporation of an accessibility ramp opposite the Ngunguru Road crossing is considered to have planning implications that cannot be addressed in time to deliver within this construction contract.
5. Notes that the extension of the rock revetment seawall to the south would provide the best opportunity to incorporate an accessibility ramp and that this location is supported by the Disability Advisory Group.
6. Notes that there is no current budget to undertake this work (seawall extension and the ramp).
7. Approves scope to extend the seawall to the southern end (incorporating an accessibility ramp) and in principle unbudgeted spend of circa \$275,000
8. Subject to the decision above, directs officers to negotiate a price with Clements Contractors and return to Council for approval of additional budget and contract variation.
9. Directs staff to establish a prioritisation of beaches that will be accessible for everyone and include a budget for consideration as part of the 2027 Long Term Plan.

#### Amendment

**Moved By** Cr Simon Reid

**Seconded By** Cr Paul Yovich

That the Council:

1. Notes that Council Adopted the Regional Accessibility Strategy in June 2024 which includes an aim that everyone can access popular beaches. However, funding for the implementation of the Strategy was not approved in the 2024 Long Term Plan.

2. Notes that the current seawall project is funded through renewals and is largely a like for like replacement.
3. Notes that previous designs which incorporated accessibility ramps were rejected by NRC as they involved too much reclamation.
4. Notes that the incorporation of an accessibility ramp opposite the Ngunguru Road crossing is considered to have planning implications that cannot be addressed in time to deliver within this construction contract.
5. Notes that the extension of the rock revetment seawall to the south would provide the best opportunity to incorporate an accessibility ramp and that this location is supported by the Disability Advisory Group.
6. Notes that there is no current budget to undertake this work (seawall extension and the ramp).
7. Declines to fund the extension to the seawall and the accessibility ramp at this time but recommends that it is included for consideration in the next Long Term Plan.
8. Subject to the decision above, directs officers to negotiate a price with Clements Contractors and return to Council for approval of additional budget and contract variation.
9. Directs staff to establish a prioritisation of beaches that will be accessible for everyone and include a budget for consideration as part of the 2027 Long Term Plan.

*On the amendment being put Cr Yovich called for a division:*

	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
His Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop		X	
Cr Ken Couper		X	
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Deborah Harding		X	
Cr Patrick Holmes		X	
Cr Scott McKenzie		X	
Cr Carol Peters		X	
Cr Simon Reid	X		
Cr Phoenix Ruka		X	

Cr Paul Yovich	X		
<b>Results</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>

**The Amendment was Lost (3 to 9)**

*On the motion being put Cr Reid called for a division:*

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

**The Motion was Carried (10 to 2)**

## **7.2 Central Library - Pou Refurbishment**

**Moved By** Cr Paul Yovich

**Seconded By** Cr Carol Peters

That the Council:

1. Receive the report Central Library Pou Refurbishment
2. Approve the use of \$110,000 currently unbudgeted operational spend funded from the library bequest donation held in a cash-backed reserve, to refurbish the ten pou outside Central Library.

### Amendment

**Moved By** Cr Phil Halse

**Seconded By** Cr Gavin Benney

That the Council:

1. Receive the report Central Library Pou Refurbishment
2. Approve the use of \$110,000 spend funded from the library bequest donation held in a cash-backed reserve, to refurbish the ten pou outside Central Library.

**The Amendment was Carried  
and subsequently Carried  
as the substantive Motion**

*A break was taken from 11.02am to 11.11am following Item 7.2.  
Item 7.5 was taken after Item 7.2. Item 7.3 was taken after Item 7.5.*

### **7.3 Drinking-Water Quality Policy**

**Moved By** Cr Simon Reid

**Seconded By** Cr Carol Peters

That the Council:

1. Approves the Drinking-Water Quality Policy (Policy 203) attached.

**Carried**

*Cr Benney requested his vote against the motion be recorded.*

### **7.4 Establishment of City Centre Committee**

**Moved By** His Worship the Mayor

**Seconded By** Cr Phil Halse

That the Council:

1. Notes the establishment of the City Centre Committee by the Mayor under Section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002, with the following membership:
  - Cr Phil Halse
  - Cr Paul Yovich
  - Cr Carol Peters
2. Notes the draft Terms of Reference for the City Centre Committee contained in Attachment 1.
3. Agrees that the Committee will develop the final Terms of Reference ahead of a decision of Council for consideration of adoption at the June 2025 meeting of Council
4. Notes that the Committee will meet as required but at a minimum of every month.

5. Agrees that the John Street design be paused until the formation of the Committee and Council makes a decision on the adoption of the Parking Strategy at the June 2025 meeting of Council.

#### Amendment

**Moved By** Cr Deb Harding

**Seconded By** Cr Carol Peters

That the Council:

1. Notes the establishment of the City Centre Committee by the Mayor under Section 41A of the Local Government Act 2002, with the following membership:
  - Cr Phil Halse
  - Cr Paul Yovich
  - Cr Carol Peters
  - Cr Scott McKenzie
2. Notes the draft Terms of Reference for the City Centre Committee contained in Attachment 1.
3. Agrees that the Committee will develop the final Terms of Reference ahead of a decision of Council for consideration of adoption at the June 2025 meeting of Council
4. Notes that the Committee will meet as required but at a minimum of every month.
5. Agrees that the John Street design be included as a priority of the Committee in the draft Terms of Reference of the Committee.

#### Procedural Motion

**Moved By** Cr Ken Couper

**Seconded By** Cr Patrick Holmes

That the amendment now be put.

**Carried**

*On the amendment being put Cr Reid called for a division:*

	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
His Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		



Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
<b>Results</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**The Amendment was Carried (8 to 4)**

*On the amendment being put as the substantive motion, Cr Reid called for a division:*

	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
His Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
<b>Results</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**The Amendment was Carried (8 to 4)**

*Item 7.5 was taken after Item 7.2.*

## **7.5 Maunu Cemetery Extension Budget Brought Forward Request**

**Moved By** Cr Simon Reid

**Seconded By** Cr Phoenix Ruka

That the Council:

1. Approve the request to bring forward Cemetery development budget to provide burial capacity at Maunu Cemetery and to meet Council's obligations with regards to the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 as follows:
  - a. Bury Overhead Powerlines - bring forward budget of \$183,326 from year 5 to \$33,326 in year 1 and \$150,000 in year 2 of the LTP.
  - b. Maunu Cemetery Roothing Network – bring forward budget of \$243,480 from year 9 and \$806,325 from year 10 to \$341,500 in year 2 and \$708,305 in year 3 of the LTP.
  - c. Maunu Development Plan, Littoralis - \$248,100 from year 10 to year 3 of the LTP
2. Notes that the necessary budget adjustments will be reflected in the final 2025-26 Annual Plan Budget prior to adoption.

**Carried**

## **7.6 Camping in Public Places Bylaw - Amendments to Freedom Camping Act 2011**

**Moved By** His Worship the Mayor  
**Seconded By** Cr Phoenix Ruka

That Council:

1. Continues to allow camping in non-self-contained motor vehicles at the designated sites listed in Schedules 3 and 4 of the Camping in Public Places Bylaw (the Bylaw) by revoking clauses 9 and 10 of the Bylaw and replacing them, under section 11A of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, with new clauses 9 and 10, respectively, as shown with tracked changes in Attachment 1;
2. Amends all other clauses of the Bylaw, as shown with tracked changes in Attachment 1;
3. Determines that the above amendments to the Bylaw come into force on 7 June 2025.

**Carried**

## **7.7 Adoption of the Whangārei Future Development Strategy**

**Moved By** Cr Phil Halse  
**Seconded By** Cr Simon Reid

That the Council:

1. Approves the Whangārei Future Development Strategy (Attachment A).
2. Receives the Whangārei Future Development Strategy Technical Report (Attachment B).
3. Authorises the Chief Executive to make minor editing amendments required to the Future Development Strategy and supporting documentation before publication.
4. Notes the final recommendation from the Future Development Strategy Working Group to Whangarei District Council and Northland Regional Council to adopt the Whangārei Future Development Strategy.
5. Notes the disestablishment of the Future Development Strategy Working Group following their final recommendation in accordance with the Terms of Reference (Attachment C).
6. Notes that Whangarei District Council and Northland Regional Council each need to formally approve the Future Development Strategy, and Northland Regional Council intends to make a decision on adoption on Tuesday, 27 May 2025.
7. Notes that, pending the outcome of recommendation 1 regarding adoption, the Whangārei Future Development Strategy will supersede the Whangārei District Growth Strategy 2021.

#### Amendment

**Moved By** Cr Scott McKenzie

**Seconded By** Cr Patrick Holmes

That the Council:

1. Adopts the Whangārei Future Development Strategy (Attachment A).
2. Receives the Whangārei Future Development Strategy Technical Report (Attachment B).
3. Authorises the Chief Executive to make minor editing amendments required to the Future Development Strategy and supporting documentation before publication.
4. Notes the final recommendation from the Future Development Strategy Working Group to Whangarei District Council and Northland Regional Council to adopt the Whangārei Future Development Strategy.

5. Notes the disestablishment of the Future Development Strategy Working Group following their final recommendation in accordance with the Terms of Reference (Attachment C).
6. Notes that Whangarei District Council and Northland Regional Council each need to formally adopt the Future Development Strategy, and Northland Regional Council intends to make a decision on adoption on Tuesday, 27 May 2025.
7. Notes that, pending the outcome of recommendation 1 regarding adoption, the Whangārei Future Development Strategy will supersede the Whangārei District Growth Strategy 2021.

Procedural Motion

**Moved By** Cr Ken Couper

**Seconded By** Cr Phoenix Ruka

That the amendment now be put.

*Cr Reid called for a division on the procedural motion:*

	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
His Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
<b>Results</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**The Procedural Motion was Carried (8 to 4)**

*On the amendment being put Cr Yovich called for a division:*

	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
His Worship the Mayor	X		

Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Deborah Harding	X		
Cr Patrick Holmes	X		
Cr Scott McKenzie	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Cr Phoenix Ruka	X		
Cr Paul Yovich		X	
<b>Results</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

**The Amendment was Carried (9 to 3)  
and subsequently Carried  
as the substantive Motion**

*Cr's Yovich, Reid and Halse requested their votes against the amendment be recorded.*

*Items 7.8 and 7.9 were taken after Item 6.3.*

## **7.8 Kamo Road T2 Lane**

**Moved By** Cr Simon Reid

**Seconded By** His Worship the Mayor

That Council:

1. Notes that enforcement of the Kamo Road and Bank Street Special Vehicle Lane will be enforced through a combination of Cameras and through Council's existing Regulatory Services contract with Armourguard.
2. Notes that the additional operating costs (associated with enforcement) are intended to be offset through infringement revenue (including parking and misuse of the T2 Lane) rather than rate funded.
3. Notes that two additional Parking Wardens, one additional Parking Administrator and two additional vehicles at a total annual value of \$233,396.37 will be incorporated within the Armourguard contract.

4. Notes that these additional services and costs will run concurrently with the current Regulatory Services contract term, set to end on 30 June 2027.
5. Notes that Enforcement service requirements across the district will be incorporated into the new Contract which will be publicly tendered.
6. Notes that these new costs will start on 1 July 2025 (at the earliest), and end on 30 June 2027 and therefore will add a maximum of \$466,792.74 (over that 24-month period) to the current total contract value.
7. Approves a variation to the existing Regulatory Services contract with Armourguard [CON 22088] of \$466,792.74 increasing the current approved 5-year contract value from \$12,445,322 to \$12,912,115.
8. Approves additional operating budget for the required additional parking enforcement staff of up to \$466,792.74, noting that this is budgeted to be offset by additional income.
9. Delegates the Chief Executive to negotiate the terms of the variation to the increased contract value and, subject to final agreement by Armourguard and finalise/approve the changes.

**Carried**

## **7.9 Northland Event Centre Roof Replacement Working Group**

**Moved By** Cr Paul Yovich

**Seconded By** His Worship the Mayor

That the Council:

1. Agrees to the formation of a Project Working Group to support the design and construction of the Northland Event Centre Roof Replacement
2. Agrees to following membership proposed by the Mayor
  - a. Phil Halse
  - b. Deborah Harding
  - c. Gavin Benney
3. Agrees that the Working Group will develop the Terms of Reference for consideration of adoption at the August 2025 meeting of Council.

**Carried**

## 8. Public Excluded Business / Rāhui Tangata

**Moved By** His Worship the Mayor

**Seconded By** Cr Ken Couper

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
8.1 Confidential minutes of the Whangarei District Council meeting held on 29 April 2025	Good reason to withhold information exists under Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
8.2 Civic Honours Selection Committee - Approval of Minutes and Recommendations 2025		
8.3 CCTO Update May 2025		
8.4 Kamo Rd T2 Lane		
8.5 Maungatapere Land options		
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	To protect the privacy of natural persons including that of a deceased person.	S7(2)(a)
1.3	To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	S7(2)(i)
	To prevent the disclosure or use of official information	S7(2)(j)

	for improper gain or improper advantage.	
1.4	To enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	S7(2)(i)

**Carried**

#### **10. Closure of Meeting / Te katinga o te Hui**

The meeting concluded at 12.44pm.

Confirmed this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025

His Worship the Mayor (Chairperson)