

## Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Tuesday 26 November 2024, commencing at 10.15am

### Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford

Councillors:

John Blackwell

Jack Crow

Peter-Lucas Jones (*Via audio-visual link*)

Amy Macdonald

Marty Robinson (*Via audio-visual link*)

Tui Shortland (*Left meeting at 10.38am*)

Rick Stolwerk

Joe Carr

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

#### Full Meeting

Independent Risk Advisor

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity

Translator

Governance Specialist

#### Part Meeting

Group Manager - Community Resilience

Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services

Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services

Pou Manawhakahaere – GM Governance & Engagement (*Via audio-visual link*)

Deputy GM – Governance and Engagement

Finance Manager

Corporate Strategy Manager

Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager

Compliance Monitoring Manager

Financial Accountant

Corporate Policy Specialist

Corporate Policy Analyst

Policy Specialist – Freshwater

Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori

*Secretarial Note: The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.15am and proceedings commenced with a karakia by Councillor Shortland.*

## **Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)**

### **Moved (Blackwell/Shortland)**

That the apologies from the Chief Executive Officer and the Independent Tangata Whenua Advisors for non-attendance and Councillor Shortland for partial attendance be received.

### **Carried**

*Secretarial Note: The Chairperson advised that Item 7.7 'Revised Terms of Reference for Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party had been withdrawn to allow elected members to workshop the matter (with the approval of the Acting Chief Executive Officer and in accordance with Standing Order 9.9 'Withdrawal of agenda items').*

## **Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 2.0)**

It was advised that councillors should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

## **Confirmation of Minutes - 22 October 2024 (Item 5.1)**

### **Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin**

### **Moved (Jones/Shortland)**

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 22 October be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

### **Carried**

*(Councillors Jones and Shortland voted against the motion)*

## **Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)**

### **Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist**

### **Moved (Craw/Carr)**

That the action sheet be received.

### **Carried**

## **Financial Report to 31 October 2024 (Item 6.1)**

### **Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant**

### **Moved (Craw/Blackwell)**

1. That the report 'Financial Report to 31 October 2024' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 12 November 2024, be received.
2. That the monthly profile of the 2024-25 Adopted (Original) Budget is updated to reflect the timing of council's current work programmes and used in councils financial reporting for November 2024 through to its review date of 30 June 2025, at which time the financial reporting framework will be re-evaluated.

### **Carried**

## **Update to the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy (Item 7.1)**

**Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist**

**Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)**

1. That the report 'Update to the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 7 November 2024, be received.
2. That the updated Elected Members' Allowances Policy (*included as **Attachment One** pertaining to Item 7.1 of the 26 November 2024 council agenda*) be adopted.

**Carried**

## **Adoption of Feedback (Submission) Policy: consultation in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2002 (Item 7.2)**

**Report from Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager**

**Moved (Craw/Macdonald)**

1. That the report 'Adoption of Feedback (Submission) Policy: consultation in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2002' by Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 22 October 2024, be received.
2. That council approve the amended wording in the Submission Policy.

**Carried**

## **Investment Committee (Item 7.3)**

**Report from Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services**

*Secretarial Note: It was requested that recommendations 1,2,4,5 and 6 be addressed separately to recommendation 3 (in accordance with Standing Order 23.3 'Motion expressed in parts').*

**Moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)**

1. That the report 'Investment Committee' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 31 October 2024, be received.
2. That council approves the Investment Committee Terms of Reference (*as per Attachment 1 pertaining to Item 7.3 of the 26 November 2024 council meeting agenda*).
4. That council delegates authority to the three councillors appointed to the Investment Committee to undertake a recruitment process to recommend to council the appointment of two independent investment advisors to the Investment Committee and the appointment of the Investment Committee Chair.
5. That funding for the two independent investment advisors be met from salary savings for 2024/25, and that funding for the two independent investment advisors in 2025/26 of up to \$70,000 in total be met from the councillor projects reserved portion of the Forestry Equalisation Reserve.
6. That council approves the changes to the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee Terms of Reference (*as per the marked-up changes in Attachment 2 pertaining to Item 7.3 of the 26 November 2024 council meeting agenda*).

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: The establishment of the Investment Committee aligned with council's more proactive management of investments.*

### **It was further moved (Macdonald/Crawford)**

3. That council appoints Councillor Blackwell, Councillor Craw, Councillor Stolwerk and Tangata Whenua Advisor George Riley as members of the Investment Committee.

### **Carried**

*(In putting the motion the Chairperson called for an expression of opinion by show of hands, the result being Councillors Blackwell, Craw, Crawford, Macdonald and Stolwerk in favour of the motion and Councillors Carr, Jones, Robinson and Shortland against).*

*Secretarial Note:*

- *It was suggested that the membership of the Investment Committee should reflect the three district council areas of Northland.*
- *Councillor Shortland left the meeting at 10.38am.*

## **Biosecurity Annual Report 2023-2024 (Item 7.4)**

**Report from Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity**

### **Moved (Craw/Macdonald)**

1. That the report 'Biosecurity Annual Report 2023-2024' by Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and dated 1 November 2024, be received.
2. That council note the contents of the agenda item and attached Biosecurity Annual Report 2023-2024.
3. That council approves the Annual Report as a record of the actions and results that have occurred during the 2023-2024 year.
4. That council approves Don Mckenzie, Group Manager Biosecurity, to make minor grammatical, typographic and accuracy amendments prior to publication of the Annual Report.

### **Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- *The Biosecurity Annual Report was described as a 'report to be proud of'.*
- *Appreciation was extended to the Biosecurity Team for its extensive work programme which was reliant on strong community partnerships.*
- *NRC was continuing to work with Ngāti Paoa as well as the Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty councils (and others) to develop a business case to provide central Government with a national programme to eliminate Caulerpa.*

## **Additional budget to be taken from the Biosecurity Incursions reserve to fund gold clam actions in 2024/2025 (Item 7.5)**

**Report from Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and Nicky Fitzgibbon, Biosecurity Manager - Incursions and Response**

### **Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)**

1. That the report 'Additional budget to be taken from the Biosecurity Incursions reserve to fund gold clam actions in 2024/2025' by Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and Nicky Fitzgibbon, Biosecurity Manager - Incursions and Response and dated 8 November 2024, be received.
2. That council approve additional funding of \$50k from the Biosecurity Incursions Reserve to scale up actions that will help prevent gold clam from entering the region.

### **Carried**

#### *Secretarial Note:*

- *Work was actively in train to apply for a Controlled Area Notice (CAN) to impose restrictions on Kai Iwi Lakes to prevent an incursion of Gold Clam.*
- *It was stressed that the upcoming Summer would be critical and it would be better for council to be proactive in putting in place intervention measures now rather than facing an incursion and having to close the Lakes.*
- *It was requested that information be sought from NZ Fish and Game on the migratory numbers, routes and timelines for Black Swan, as a potential vector for Gold Clam into Northland.*
- *It was suggested that a letter be drafted to Waikato Regional Council emphasising the importance of containment in that area.*
- *Council to workshop the matter further as a matter of priority including, but not limited to, what a CAN would include, funding and comms.*

## **Regional Pest Management and Marine Pathways Plan 2017-2027 (Item 7.6)**

**Report from April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori and Leon Keefer, Policy Specialist - Freshwater**

### **Moved (Craw/Crawford)**

1. That the report 'Regional Pest Management and Marine Pathways Plan 2017-2027' by April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori and Leon Keefer, Policy Specialist - Freshwater and dated 12 November 2024, be received.
2. That the council approve the draft candidate pest species list for inclusion into the review of the Regional Pest Management and Marine Pathways Plan 2017-2027.
3. That council supports staff undertaking further research into the costs and benefits of including the nominated pests in the Pest Plan.

### **Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Appreciation was extended to staff for being 'quick of the mark' initiating the review of the Regional Pest Management and Marine Pathway Plan.*

## **Revised Terms of Reference for Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (Item 7.7)**

**Report from Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement and Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager**

*Secretarial Note: This item was withdrawn to allow elected members to workshop the matter (with the approval of the Acting Chief Executive Officer and in accordance with Standing Order 9.9 'Withdrawal of agenda items').*

## **Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.1)**

**Report from Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair**

**Moved (Carr/Blackwell)**

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 6 November 2024, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: The Chair shared some of the opportunities that had arisen from his participation in the recent Thailand Familiarisation Trip for New Zealand Business, Media and Influencers. The Chair also undertook to circulate a copy of the presentation he provided at the event.*

## **Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.2)**

**Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer**

**Moved (Carr/Blackwell)**

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 31 October 2024, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- *An error was noted in the pie graphs depicting municipal wastewater treatment plant compliance. Clarification was provided that the amber sectors reflecting moderate non-compliance (which encompassed a range of issues).*
- *Concern was raised regarding the risk of Avian bird flu reaching Northland and its potential impacts. It was stressed that the Ministry for Primary Industries was the lead agency,, however there was an urgent need to clarify roles/responsibilities, ensuring key messages were available and the regional council being prepared to direct enquiries.*

## **Reporting on Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Performance Measures for Quarter One of the 2024/25 Year (Item 8.3)**

**Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist**

**Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)**

That the report 'Reporting on Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Performance Measures for Quarter One of the 2024/25 Year' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 10 October 2024, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Staff were commended for the positive results in quarter one.*

## **Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)**

**Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin**

**Moved (Carr/Blackwell)**

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Regional Transport Committee (RTC) – 1 October 2024 and
- Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC) – 4 November 2024.

be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: The Chair of the RTC and the NRC representative on the JCCAC provided a verbal update on current priorities and work programmes of the respective committees.*

## **Working Party Updates (Item 9.2)**

**Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin**

**Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)**

That the report 'Working Party Updates' be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- *The Chairs of the respective working parties provided a verbal update on current priorities and work programmes.*
- *The update from the Chair of the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party led to a robust discussion on wetland mapping. It was advised that staff would be working with the Māori Technical Advisory Group to develop the next steps. Attention was drawn to the fundamental importance of wetlands and the need for the region a whole to determine how best to reinstate and maintain wetlands.*

## **Kaupapa ā Roto/Business with Public Excluded (Item 10.0)**

**Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)**

1. That the public be excluded from the proceedings of this meeting to consider confidential matters.
2. That the general subject of the matters to be considered whilst the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to this matter, and the specific grounds under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution, are as follows:

Item No.	Item Issue	Reasons/Grounds
10.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 22 October 2024	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting.

3. That the Independent Risk Advisor be permitted to stay during business with the public excluded.

**Carried**

### **Whakamutunga (Conclusion)**

**The meeting concluded at 12.19pm with a karakia by Councillor Jones.**

Confirmed as a true and correct record 10 December 2024



Chair Geoff Crawford