

Tuhituhi o ngā Mahi O Te Kāhui Māori O Taitokerau **Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party Record of Actions**

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei and via audio visual link
on Thursday 8 May 2025, commencing at 9.30am - 3.00pm

Tuhinga (Present):

Co-Chair, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine, Pita Tipene
Councillor Amy Macdonald
Councillor Geoff Crawford
Councillor Jack Craw
Councillor Marty Robinson
Councillor Peter-Lucas Jones
Councillor Rick Stolwerk
Kahukuraariki Trust Board, Waitangi Woods
Ngāti Kuta Michelle Elboz
Ngāti Tara, Mahue Greaves
Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust, Mira Norris
Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Rehia, Kipa Munro
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whatua, Sheila Taylor
Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, George Riley
Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa, Nyze Manuel
Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Ngāpuhi, Janelle Beazley
Te Waiāriki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāti Takapari, Michelle Beattie
Te Whakapiko Hapū, Rowan Tautari

I Tae Mai (In Attendance):

Huihuinga i te katoa (Full Meeting)

Kaiāwhina Kaupapa Māori Technical Advisors
PA/Team Admin, Governance and Engagement
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity
Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services
Pou Whakaritenga – GM Regulatory Services
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Huihuinga i te wahanga (Part Meeting)

Communications Specialist
Economic Policy Advisor
Economist
Kaiāwhina Tari
Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha Hapū representative, Shane Witehira
Northland Inc, Chair, Suzanne Duncan
Northland Inc, Chief Executive, Paul Linton
Northland Inc, Head of Infrastructure and Investment, Vaughan Cooper
Policy and Planning Manager

Policy and Planning Specialists
Principal Advisor, Environmental Services

The iwi and hapū caucus commenced at 9:30am with a karakia led by Co-Chair Pita Tipene. This was followed by a warm welcome to Kipa Munro, who joined as the representative for Ngāti Rehia, succeeding Nora Rameka after her 15 years of dedicated service on Te Ruarangi. Kipa Munro responded with a mihi, and the formal meeting began at 11:00am.

Karakia / Whakatau

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Co-Chair, NRC Deputy Chair Tui Shortland
Councillor Joe Carr
Councillor John Blackwell
Ngāti Hau, Mike Kake
Ngātiwai Trust Board, Aperahama Edwards
Te Roroa Delilah Te Aōrere Parore-Southon
Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri, Niki Conrad
Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust, Georgina Connelly
Te Whakaminenga o te Hikutu Hapū-Whanau Lynette Wharerau
Patuharakeke Iwi Trust Board Julianne Chetham

Secretarial Note: The Co-Chair requested a review of the attendance record and follow-up on any non-attendances to ensure members remain committed to the kaupapa. This information will also support the upcoming Strategic Review of membership, which is yet to be scheduled.

Nga whakapuakanga (Declarations of Conflicts of Interest) (Item 3.0)

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

Record of Actions – 13 March 2025 (Item 4.1)

It was agreed that the record of actions was an accurate record of the meeting.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)

The action sheet was received.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Waipiro Bay Marina – Fast-Track Approval

Michelle Elboz (Te Ruarangi representative for Ngāti Kuta), alongside Shane Witehira (on behalf of Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha), presented a tabled item seeking formal support from Te Ruarangi for the hapū position opposing the Waipiro Bay Marina Fast-Track approval application 229. The presentation was accompanied by a memo outlining the hapū's concerns. Te Ruarangi was invited to contribute a letter of support to the formal objection the hapū were submitting to Ministers Chris

Bishop, Shane Jones, and Tama Potaka within the following days, which also included letters of support and a petition from across the rohe. Key discussion points included:

- Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū members had confirmed their support for Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha in opposing Fast-Track Application 229 in their caucus session.
- Members raised significant concerns about the Fast-Track process, including:
 - Lack of a proper Resource Management Act (RMA) process.
 - Exclusion of tangata whenua and local communities.
 - Prioritisation of economic outcomes over environmental and cultural values.
 - Potential breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Council's position is that they maintain a neutral stance on Fast-Track proposals until full information is available. This likely extended to projects not yet listed.
- Members who publicly oppose the application may be excluded from future decision-making panels due to perceived bias.
- Suggestions were made for NRC to reissue its submission on the Fast-Track Approvals Bill and/or provide a statement that supports the hapū position without compromising council neutrality.
- A pathway was identified for council to send a letter to Minister Bishop, reiterating its concerns about the Fast-Track process and including Te Ruarangi's iwi and caucus statements opposing the Waipiro Bay Marina proposal. This letter could then be included in the hapū submission.
- Hapū representatives will take the caucus support and letter back to their hui and consider additional strategies, including:
 - Signing a Mana Whakahono-a-Rohe agreement with NRC, which provides some involvement in the Fast-Track approvals process.
 - Establishing a symbolic mooring (pou) within the proposed development site to prevent Fast-Track progression.

Agreed action points:

- The CEO will canvass councillors for direction on contributing a letter of support to the hapū submission, to be provided by 8 July 2025. The letter will reiterate council's concerns about the Fast-Track Approvals process and include the following caucus motions:

Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū caucus supports Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha in their opposition to Waipiro Bay Marina Fast-Track approval Application 229 (as detailed in the attached memo).

Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū caucus supports Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha in considering a Mana Whakahono-a-Rohe agreement with Northland Regional Council.

Secretarial Note: "Memo to Te Ruarangi from Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha Hapū re: Waipiro Bay Marina – Application to Fast-Track Approvals" was tabled at the outset of the meeting and prioritised for discussion

Tāiki ē - Report on Priority Actions (Item 4.3)

It was agreed that, due to time constraints, this item would be deferred and held over until the next meeting.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Te Ōhanga Māori - Māori Economy Statistics & Report (Item 4.4)

The Chair and Chief Executive of Northland Inc (NInc) joined the discussion on Māori economic development (MED) in Te Taitokerau, informed by a presentation on insights from Infometrics, BERL (reports on Te Ōhanga Māori 2023 and research on Māori tourism), Te Puni Kōkiri, and Statistics NZ | Tatauranga Aotearoa.

Key discussion points:

- Māori entrepreneurialism is strong, with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) central to MED but limited by scaling challenges (e.g. aquaculture, tourism), infrastructure barriers (including Māori-led investment), and access to capital.
- A need for more granular data on growth-oriented SMEs vs sole operators, unemployment, zero-hour contracts, gender pay equity, and the impacts of layoffs (e.g. Affco, Jobs for Nature) and education on employment and gender disparities.
- NInc's Chair acknowledged feedback that their draft Statement of Intent (SOI) lacked MED emphasis and committed to raising this with the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee via shareholder councils.
- Support for developing an economic sovereignty forum, similar to the kaitiaki-led Wānanga Waioara, in partnership with NInc and organisations like Te Puni Kōkiri.
- Interest in learning from migrant business models and addressing hesitancy around Treaty settlements.

Agreed action points:

- Staff to continue working with NInc to scope a Māori economic sovereignty forum, with hapū perspectives at the centre.

Igniting Northland's Potential: Light Touch Regional Deal Proposal - Update (Item 4.5)

This paper updated Te Ruarangi on the Regional Deal proposal submitted to central government on 28 February 2025 (also circulated via email on 3 April), and sought guidance on iwi and hapū engagement should Northland be selected. The Chair and Chief Executive of Northland Inc (NInc) attended the kōrero. Key discussion points:

- The Joint Regional Economic Development Committee (JREDC) holds delegated authority to lead negotiations on behalf of the four councils.
- While the structure of negotiations remains unclear, if Northland's bid is successful, iwi and hapū will be involved at the negotiation table from the outset.
- Negotiation roles are likely to be confidential, with a six-week window to finalise a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Negotiators will need to engage with Te Ruarangi and other iwi/hapū forums to ensure they can speak confidently to different interests.
- Concerns were raised by Te Ruarangi about the process to date, with a call for improved communication and transparency, particularly between formal meetings.
- There was a desire for visibility of the Terms of Reference for negotiation roles.
- The importance of aligning with long-term regional goals and strengthening JREDC's engagement with iwi and hapū was emphasised.

Agreed action points:

- NRC Chief Executive to follow up regarding iwi and hapū involvement in any regional deal negotiations and report back to Te Ruarangi.

Central Government Legislative Changes (Item 4.6)

This paper provided an overview of recent, current, and upcoming central government legislative changes relevant to Northland Regional Council (NRC) and tangata whenua partners. The report included a summary of legislative changes and a presentation on the Resource Management ACT (RMA reform). Key discussion points included:

- The next 18 months will be challenging for local government, with central government signalling a need for reform. It's vital that council advocates both as a sector and in support of our Te Tiriti partners.
- Legislative changes are increasingly affecting iwi, hapū, and Māori communities.
- Cabinet's rejection of stronger Te Tiriti clauses in resource management reform was noted, though the previous RMA provisions were already limited.
- Short submission timeframes hinder joint advocacy with tangata whenua, though recent Fast-Track legislation submission shows it can be done.
- Need for joint strategy to improve coordination and ensure tangata whenua voices are included early and meaningfully.
- Concerns raised about the erosion of local voice and whether the council could make a case to the Waitangi Tribunal.

Agreed action points:

- Staff to continue highlighting legislation changes and identify upcoming submissions for joint advocacy with Te Ruarangi.
- Explore options for enhancing tangata whenua oversight and input into legislative responses.

Wastewater standards submission (Item 4.7)

This paper was provided due to Te Tiriti partners strong interest in the proposed wastewater standards. Taumata Arowai (Water Services Authority) released a discussion document on proposed standards and changes to the Resource Management Act (RMA) which could significantly reduce councils' ability to set wastewater discharge standards and limit public input on discharge applications. Key discussion points included:

- The need to formalise joint advocacy with Te Tiriti partners, beyond current workshop invitations.
- Strong support for council's submission language to Taumata Arowai, especially its alignment with Te Taitokerau values.
- Where upcoming consultations may not return to Te Ruarangi due to timing, Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) was identified as a mechanism for interim engagement and advice
- RMA reform is foundational for Te Tiriti partners; it underpins environmental protection.

Agreed action points:

- Prepare a paper for the July Te Ruarangi meeting outlining a joint advocacy approach for RMA reforms, including options for Te Tiriti partner involvement in council workshops, use of MTAG for interim advice and engagement.

Wānanga Waioira - report and presentation (Item 4.8)

This report presented outcomes from the second Wānanga Waioira, held on 26 March at Waitangi and hosted by Whangaroa Taiao Ltd with council's support. Te Ruarangi representative Nyze Manuel

shared feedback and highlights, including strengthened relationships between kaitiaki and NRC, shared mātauranga of te taiao, and the importance of kotahitanga in understanding the RMA and its functions. Key discussion points:

- Strong support for the kaupapa and its role in connecting NRC and kaitiaki through shared environmental mātauranga (knowledge).
- Many attendees, including those who don't usually speak publicly, contributed valuable insights (e.g. on septic tanks, soil, whale flensing).
- Feedback included a suggestions for either a two-day format or more frequent one-day events.
- Emphasis on the importance of kawanatanga and rangatiratanga working together for the environment. Chair Geoff Crawford's presence was noted as significant and appreciated by attendees.
- Suggestion to combine taiao and Māori economic development in future wānanga.
- Acknowledgement of budget constraints and the need to better support kaitiaki participation.
- General consensus to continue and strengthen the wānanga format, with potential recommendations to formalise future planning.

Agreed action points:

- Staff to work with the Māori Technical Advisory Group to identify next steps for the 2026 Wānanga Waiora.

Mōtatau marae-based hui - report (Item 4.9)

This paper provided a report on the Te Ruarangi marae-based meeting held at the Motatau marae, hosted by Ngāti Hine, on 10 April 2025. The hui showcased local taiao mahi and strategic alignment across catchment and environmental projects.

Council appreciated the manaaki shown, especially the involvement of tamariki from Te Kura Reorua o Motatau. The hui was recognised as valuable, with strong kaitiaki participation. There was also shared disappointment that a whakawatea could not be held to formally acknowledge Nora Rameka's departure as Ngāti Rehia representative on Te Ruarangi, following over 15 years of dedicated service.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Local government elections 2025 (Item 4.10)

This paper provided an overview of the upcoming local elections in October 2025, including the poll on Māori constituencies, and sought feedback from Te Ruarangi on how best to support awareness and participation. Key discussion points included:

- Strong commitment to Māori representation and the importance of getting communications right, especially around the poll.
- Need for clear, culturally appropriate engagement strategies to support Māori candidates and voters.
- Acknowledgement of barriers such as postal voting and the need to better educate communities, especially rangatahi, about local government and the poll process.
- Emphasis on council's neutral role in the poll, while supporting informed decision-making by iwi and hapū.

- Suggestions included supporting iwi and hapū-led hui, drawing on lessons from past elections, and acknowledging that tangata whenua are mobilising participation through trusted community-led networks like Toitū te Tiriti.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Te Ruarangi meeting schedule 2025 (Item 4.11)

This paper sought to confirm the proposed schedule for Te Ruarangi's formal meetings and marae-based hui for the remainder of 2025, in line with the Terms of Reference.

Agreed action points:

- That member Mira Norris will check the availability of marae at Kohukohu for the 14 August Te Ruarangi hui, recognising the importance of holding a hui in Hokianga.
- That Ngunguru Marae is proposed as the host location for the final marae-based hui, to be held on either 13 November or 11 December, subject to confirmation following the October 2025 local government elections and any resulting changes to the governance framework.

Working Party Updates Report (Item 4.12)

The working party updates were taken as read. The reports of flooding mitigation were noted and interest was expressed in Wai 3325 (Climate Change) and a request to explore evidence from Kaeo demonstrating kawanatanga and rangatiratanga working together.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 4.13)

This paper was taken as read.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 2.24pm with karakia by Kipa Munro.