

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Thursday 24 July 2025, commencing at 9.30am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford
Deputy Chairperson, Tui Shortland (*via audio-visual link - left 10.05am*)
Councillors:
John Blackwell
Jack Craw
Peter-Lucas Jones (*via audio-visual link*)
Amy Macdonald
Rick Stolwerk
Joe Carr

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Independent Tangata Whenua - George Riley (*via audio-visual link*)
Pou Taumatua GM Corporate Services
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement
Group Manager - Community Resilience
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM -Biosecurity
Translator (*via audio-visual link*)
Māori Engagement and Governance Support Administration
PA Group Manager Corporate Services

Part Meeting

Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer (*via audio-visual link - from 9.40am*)
Finance Manager
EriksensGlobal (*via audio-visual link*)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.30am. The meeting commenced with a karakia by Councillor Macdonald.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Karakia Timatanga – Tauāki ā roto/Opening karakia (Item 2.0)

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 3.0)

Moved (Jones/Craw)

That the apologies from Councillor Robinson and independent advisor Steve Watene for non-attendance be received.

Carried

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 4.0)

Moved (Crawford/Carr)

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

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes - 24 June 2025 (Item 5.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 24 June 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Jones/Crawford)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: GM Corporate Services to update council via email on progress with the letter to Mr Parker.

Retrospective Approval - Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector (Item 6.1)

Report from Darryl Jones, Economist

Moved (Jones/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Retrospective Approval - Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector' by Darryl Jones, Economist and dated 7 July 2025, be received.
2. That council retrospectively approve the submission (included as Attachment One) to the Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Council acknowledged the strategic importance of Opua in Northland as a registered international port in relation to cruise ship activity. It was suggested that this matter be referred to the Infrastructure Committee for further discussion. The Chair confirmed that New Zealand First List MP Andy Foster is scheduled to visit Northland in the coming weeks. A meeting has been proposed, and if it proceeds, the Chair will have the opportunity to raise the issues.

Retrospective Approval - Council submission on the Regulatory Standards Bill (Item 6.2)

Report from Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist

Moved (Craw/Jones)

1. That the report 'Retrospective Approval - Council submission on the Regulatory Standards Bill' by Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and dated 2 July 2025, be received.
2. That the submission (included as Attachment One) be retrospectively approved by council.

Carried

Jonathan Gibbard joined the meeting at 9.40am

Approval of National Directions Package Submissions (Item 6.3)

Report from Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and Alison Newell, Policy Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

1. That the report 'Approval of National Directions Package Submissions' by Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and Alison Newell, Policy Specialist and dated 1 July 2025, be received.
2. That the council approve the lodgement of two submissions on the National Directions package. A submission on the Packages One (Infrastructure and Development) and Two (Primary Sector) and a separate submission on Package Three (Freshwater) as included in Attachments 1 and 2.
3. That the Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services be authorised to make minor changes to the submissions in Attachment 1 and 2, prior to lodgement, to address any minor technical amendments or grammatical changes.

Carried

Northport Group Limited Director Remuneration Pool (Item 6.4)

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

Moved (Stolwerk/Carr)

1. That the report 'Northport Group Limited Director Remuneration Pool' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 7 July 2025, be received.
2. That council approves:

- A standard directors' fee pool for NGL of \$350,000.
 - An increased directors' fee pool for NGL of \$400,000 for the first year only to accommodate the additional workload associated with integration.
3. That council notes that any NGL committee work or additional duties will be allocated from within the approved pool as determined by the NGL Chair and subject to board oversight.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Northport Group Ltd Directors Julian Smith and Lindsay Faithfull expressed an interest in meeting with council to gain clarity on the expectations of NRC and to better understand the rationale and direction behind the initiative.

Action:

1. The GM Corporate Services to coordinate a meeting between Northport Group Ltd Directors Julian Smith and Lindsay Faithful in August and confirm the date with council.

Health and Safety report for final quarter 2024-2025 and end of financial year (Item 7.1)

Report from Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Shane Cleary, People and Culture Manager

Moved (Crawford/Blackwell)

That the report 'Health and Safety report for final quarter 2024-2025 and end of financial year' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Manager dated 7 July 2025, be received.

Carried

People and Culture Report 2024 - 2025 (Item 7.2)

Report from Kayla Ludlow, Human Resources Advisor; Shane Cleary, People and Culture Manager and Jessica Matson, Human Resources Advisor

Moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)

That the report 'People and Culture Report 2024 - 2025' by Kayla Ludlow, Human Resources Advisor; Shane Cleary, People and Culture Manager and Jessica Matson, Human Resources Advisor and dated 7 July 2025, be received.

Carried

Chair's Report to Council (Item 7.3)

Report from Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair

Moved (Crawford/Carr)

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 3 July 2025, be received.

Carried

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 7.4)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Carr/Jones)

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 15 July 2025, be received.

Carried

Action:

1. The Quarry Road Bridge was completed ahead of time. Chief Executive to co-ordinate an event to mark the completion of the project with Minister Jones in November.

Councillor Shortland left the meeting at 10.05am.

Legislative compliance half yearly report January - June 2025 (Item 7.5)

Report from Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst

Moved (Blackwell/Stolwerk)

That the report 'Legislative compliance half yearly report January - June 2025' by Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst and dated 27 June 2025, be received.

Carried

Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 8.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Blackwell/Crawford)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Civil Defence Emergency Management Group – 3 June 2025 and
- Regional Transport Committee – 10 June 2025

be received.

Carried

Kaupapa ā Roto/Business with Public Excluded (Item 9.0)

Moved (Blackwell/Stolwerk)

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
9.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 24 June 2025	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting -.
9.2	Externally Managed Funds: Recommendation to Exit Councils Investment in Castlerock Partners	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage s7(2)(j).
9.3	Kaipara Service Centre (KSC) Tenancies	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i).
9.4	Northport Group Limited Shareholders Resolution	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h).

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

.Carried

Open Meeting

Moved (Blackwell/Carr)

That the council resumes in open meeting.

Carried

Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 24 June 2025 (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Blackwell/Stolwerk)

1. That the confidential minutes of the council meeting held on 24 June 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Kaipara Service Centre (KSC) Tenancies (Item 9.3)

Report from Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager

Moved (Blackwell/Carr)

1. That the report 'Kaipara Service Centre (KSC) Tenancies' by Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager and dated 7 July 2025, be received.
2. That council agree in principle to Kaipara District Council proposal (the Proposal) to relocate their new Dargaville library into the KSC ground floor.
3. That management provide staff resource to support a feasibility study into how the reception, library and office space(s) may be best configured and operated for the benefit of council.
4. That the Chief Executive report back with a recommendation on the Proposal.

Carried

Northport Group Limited Shareholders Resolution (Item 9.4)

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

Moved (Stolwerk/Carr)

1. That the report 'Northport Group Limited Shareholders Resolution' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 8 July 2025, be received.
2. That council retrospectively approve the Chair's signing of the Shareholders Resolution and EPA document (**Attachment 1**).

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 10.35am.