Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 23 September 2025, commencing at 10.15am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford
Councillors:
John Blackwell
Joe Carr
Jack Craw
Peter-Lucas Jones *(Via audio-visual link)*
Amy Macdonald
Marty Robinson
Rick Stolwerk
Tui Shortland (*(Via audio-visual link)*

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting
Independent Risk Advisor *(Via audio-visual link)*
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Pou Taumatua - GM Corporate Services
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services
Group Manager - Community Resilience
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity
People and Culture Manager
Translator *(Via audio-visual link)*
Te Tiriti Partnerships & Engagement Support Administration
Governance Specialist

Part Meeting
Deloitte Auditors (x2)
Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor *(George Riley)*
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement
Finance Manager
Corporate Strategy Manager *(Via audio-visual link)*
Corporate Planning Specialist
Financial Accountant
Te Tiriti Partnerships & Engagement Manager
Resource Management – Strategic Policy Specialist
Digital Experience Support

Secretarial Note: The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.17am and proceedings commenced with a karakia by Councillor Macdonald.

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

There were no apologies.

Secretarial Note: The apology from Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor, Dee-Ann Wolferstan, was received by the meeting secretariat via e-mail later in the meeting.

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 - 26 August 2025 (Item 5.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Carr/Craw)

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 26 August 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 (Macdonald/Blackwell)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Adoption of the 2025 Annual Report (Item 6.1)

Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Moved (Stolwerk/Jones)

1. That the report 'Adoption of the 2025 Annual Report' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 8 September 2025, be received.
2. That the council's audited Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 be adopted pursuant to section 98(3) of the Local Government Act 2002.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer and the Chair be authorised to sign the 2025 Annual Report compliance statement and letter of representation, and the letters of representation in relation to the: 2024/25 debenture trust deed report, and 2024/25 stock register report.
4. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve any minor accuracy, grammatical, typographical, or formatting amendments to the 2025 Annual Report and Summary Annual Report if required.
5. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve the release of the 2025 Summary Annual Report pursuant to section 98(4) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to all staff involved in the completion of the Annual Report which was described as 'great work', 'an interesting, detailed report' and a 'good document for the public'.*
- *The two Deloitte Auditors spoke to their final report; acknowledging the clean unqualified report despite the technical complexities related to the divestment of Marsden Maritime Holdings.*
- *The Auditors advised that the final report would be updated based on recent information regarding the control finding 'Conflict of Interest – Funding Allocation to Marae'.*
- *Staff took on board the direction to communicate the valuable work undertaken by the regional council, as demonstrated through the Annual Report.*

Financial Report to August 2025 (Item 6.2)

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Moved (Craw/Blackwell)

That the report 'Financial Report to August 2025' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 10 September 2025, be received.

Carried

Taumārere Business Case (Item 7.1)

Report from Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist

Moved (Shortland/Robinson)

1. That the report 'Taumārere Business Case' by Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and dated 28 August 2025, be received.
2. That council receive and endorse the Business Case for improving the state of fresh and coastal waters of the Taumārere catchment.
3. That council acknowledge the expertise and commitment provided by Ngāti Hine in developing the business case in partnership with council.
4. That council authorise Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao - Group Manager Environmental Services to make minor changes to the Business Case relating to proofing, formatting and quality of images.
5. That council note the suggested next steps relating to implementation of the business case outlined in the report.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to all involved in completing the Business Case for what was described as a 'complex catchment' in an expedited manner; meeting the aspirations of the current council.*
- *The Business Case was a 'road map for all catchments in Northland' and specifically a step toward improving freshwater quality for the Bay of Islands as a whole.*
- *The cost to monitor the impact of investment and sediment reduction would be considered in tandem with a council decision regarding investment into the programme as a whole.*

- *It was noted that the Business Case did not make reference to biosecurity, pest control or the Regional Pest Management Plan.*
- *Council had previously allocated the full remaining budget for the development of a Hokianga Harbour Remediation Business Case to the restoration of Lake Omapere. Therefore there was no funding currently allocated to extend similar work to other catchments.*

Riskpool: Update to Trust Deed (Item 7.2)

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

Moved (Crawford/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Riskpool: Update to Trust Deed' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 28 August 2025, be received.
2. That council notes the proposed Deed of Amendment and Reinstatement (**Attachment 2**) and proposed Amended Trust Deed (**Attachment 3**), governing the Riskpool Scheme, and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign and return the Consent to Trust Deed Amendments form (**Attachment 1**).

Carried

Approval of updated Risk Management Policy (Item 7.3)

Report from Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and Mandy Tepania, Audit and Assurance Lead

Moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Approval of updated Risk Management Policy' by Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and Mandy Tepania, Audit and Assurance Lead and dated 12 August 2025, be received.
2. That council approve the updated Risk Management Policy *(included as **Attachment 1** pertaining to Item 7.3 of the 23 September 2025 council meeting agenda)*.

Carried

Te Tiriti Health Check (Item 7.4)

Report from Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement

Moved (Macdonald/Stolwerk)

1. That the report 'Te Tiriti Health Check' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and dated 17 September 2025, be received.
2. That That council receive the final report and recommendations of the Te Tiriti Organisational Review (Te Tiriti Health Check) prepared by Buddle Findlay and (subject to any final minor, graphic, structural or grammatical changes or amendments recommended by the Chief Executive Officer).

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to all involved in progressing the Te Tiriti Health Check.*
- *The final report was described as 'incredibly comprehensive' and would be a valuable reference for the incoming council post elections.*

Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.1)

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 8 September 2025, be received.

Carried

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 26 August 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Assurance was provided that staff were undertaking 'significant action' regarding the non-compliance of the Kaiwaka Wastewater Treatment Plant.*
- *Appreciation was extended to the CoastCare team which was actively working with the community through planting days and working bees.*
- *Appreciation was also extended to the Comms Team for delivering a 'positive, informative [elections] campaign'.*
- *Attention was drawn to the emerging trapping technology that would allow more efficient and effective responses to pest incursions.*
- *It was stressed that all staff must 'behave as though areas are contaminated' for Freshwater Gold Clam and keep Check, Clean and Dry practices front of mind when undertaking BAU activities to ensure there was no potential of being a vector.*

Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Carr/Macdonald)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Regional Transport Committee – 5 August 2025
- Audit and Risk Committee – 19 August 2025
- Investment Committee – 2 September 2025 and
- Civil Defence Emergency Management Group - 2 September 2025

be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to all members of the Regional Transport Committee, and support staff, with the committee addressing key transport issues during the triennium.*

- *Appreciation was also extended to the Civil Defence Emergency Management team which were active keeping 'preparedness' front of mind with the community.*

Working Party Updates Report (Item 9.2)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Robinson/Crawford)

That the report 'Working Party Updates Report' be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *A correction was noted to the report; that Councillor Robinson was the Chair of the Kāeo - Whangaroa Working Group and Councillor Crawford was the Co-Chair of the Taumārere River Liaison Working Group.*
- *It was advised that the Investment Committee had made the decision to put the construction of a new NRC Waipapa Office on hold until there was a clear direction on local government reform.*

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

Moved (Robinson/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
10.1	Confirmation of Confidential Council Minutes - 26 August 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 .
10.2	Receipt of Confidential Committee Minutes	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting-.
10.3	Northport Group Limited - Capital Contribution and Transaction Costs Wash Ups	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).
10.4	Request for Property Reinvestment Funding for Redevelopment Project Due Diligence	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), 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).
10.5	Transaction to Freehold a CBD Property for Redevelopment	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), 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).

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

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 11.56am.

Confirmed as a true and correct record:

Chair Geoff Crawford

Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Gibbard

(In accordance with Standing Order 28.4 ‘Minutes of last meeting before election’ - The Chief Executive and the relevant Chairpersons must sign the minutes of the last meeting of the local authority before the next election of members)