

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Wednesday 17 December 2025, commencing at 10.00am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Pita Tipene
Deputy Chairperson, Jack Craw
Councillors:
John Blackwell
Joe Carr
Geoff Crawford
John Hunt
Colin Kitchen
Amy Macdonald
Arama Morunga

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Independent Risk Advisor
Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Pou Manawhakahaere – GM Strategic Partnerships and Engagement
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services
Group Manager - Community Resilience
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity
Deputy GM – Corporate Services
People and Culture Manager
Corporate Strategy Manager
Translator
Governance Specialist

Part Meeting

Property Consultant (Argyle Estates Ltd)
Communications Manager
Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager
Governance and Corporate Policy Manager
Marketing and Engagement Manager
Strategic and Commercial Properties Manager
Biosecurity Manager – Pest Plants
Finance Manager
Financial Accountant
Principal Advisor

Secretarial Note: The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.00am.

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

There were no apologies.

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

The Chair advised that councillors should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Councillor Morunga registered his membership on Te Maruata – LGNZ's Māori Advisory Group (in relation to Item 7.8 'Membership of Local Government New Zealand').

Receipt of supplementary and tabled items (Item 4.0A)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Kitchen/Blackwell)

That as permitted under section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the following supplementary and tabled reports be received:

- Supplementary Item 6.1: Financial Report 30 November 2025;
- Supplementary Item 12.11: Te Ruarangi Working Party Appointments; and
- Tabled Item 12.12: CAN proposal at Lake Taharoa.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes - 25 November 2025 (Item 5.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Hunt/Crawford)

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 25 November, 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/Morunga)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Financial Report to 30 November 2025 (Supplementary Item 6.1)

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Moved (Craw/Blackwell)

That the report 'Financial Report to 30 November 2025' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 12 December 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *November had been a 'very stable month' with the operational performance in line with budget and managed funds continuing to outperform expectations..*
- *The transition to a new fund manager was progressing seamlessly. Confirmation was provided that council would not be charged for the exit of funds.*
- *The Independent Risk Advisor, Steve Watene, and Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor, introduced themselves to the new council.*

Membership on Governance Bodies (Item 7.1)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Secretarial Note: As per Standing Order 23.3 'Motion expressed in parts', the motion expressed in parts was decided part by part.

Moved (Blackwell/Carr)

1. That the report 'Membership on Governance Bodies' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 25 November 2025, be received.

Carried

It was further moved (Craw/Kitchen)

2. That Councillor Morunga be appointed the primary member and Councillor Macdonald be appointed the alternate member on the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.

Carried

It was further moved (Carr/Blackwell)

3. That:
 - Councillor Crawford be appointed the Chair,
 - Councillors Blackwell, Macdonald and Morunga be appointed members; and
 - The Chair of Council be appointed Ex-officio

on the Natural Resources Working Party.

An amendment was moved (Craw/Morunga)

- 3A. That:
 - Councillor Macdonald be appointed the Chair,
 - Councillors Blackwell, Crawford and Morunga be appointed members; and
 - The Chair of Council be appointed Ex-officio

on the Natural Resources Working Party.

Lost

(Secretarial Note:

- *In putting the motion the Chair called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands. The result being, Councillors Craw, Macdonald and Morunga in support of the amendment and Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Crawford, Hunt and Kitchen against)*
- *As per Standing Order 23.7 'Lost amendments', given the amendment was lost debate resumed on the original motion.*

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

3. That:

- Councillor Crawford be appointed the Chair,
- Councillors Blackwell, Macdonald and Morunga be appointed members; and
- The Chair of Council be appointed Ex-officio

on the Natural Resources Working Party.

Carried

It was further moved (Hunt/Carr)

4. That Councillor Macdonald be appointed the alternate elected member Co-Chair on Te Ruarangi.
5. That council retrospectively appoints:
 - FNDC Councillor Ann Court (principal);
 - FNDC Councillor Rachel Baucke (alternate);
 - KDC Councillor Rachel Williams (principal); and
 - KDC Councillor Gordon Lambeth (alternate)

to the Regional Transport Committee.

Carried

2026 Meeting Calendar (Item 7.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Macdonald/Kitchen)

1. That the report '2026 Meeting Calendar' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 1 December 2025, be received.
2. That the programme of meetings for 2026, as detailed in **Attachment One**, be adopted.

Carried

Secretarial Note: An extraordinary meeting of the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee had been scheduled prior to the end of the year to ensure the appointments of Committee Chair and Deputy Chair were formalised prior to Waitangi week.

Adoption of updated Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy (Item 7.3)

Report from Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager

Moved (Crawford/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Adoption of updated Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy' by Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 27 November 2025, be received.
2. That, subject to approval by the Remuneration Authority, council adopt the updated Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy, included as **Attachment One** (*pertaining to Item 7.3 of the 17 December 2025 council meeting agenda*).

Carried

Elected Members Communications Policy (Item 7.4)

Report from Tamara Lee, Communications Manager

Moved (Blackwell/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Elected Members Communications Policy' by Tamara Lee, Communications Manager and dated 1 December 2025, be received.
2. That council adopts the policy document 'Draft Elected Members Communications Policy' included as **Attachment One** (*pertaining to Item 7.4 of the 17 December 2025 council meeting agenda*) as final.

Carried

Secretarial Note: The Chief Executive Officer to discuss the impact of the 3G network shutdown further with Councillor Blackwell.

Business Case for Flood Mitigation Long Term Plan Projects (Item 7.5)

Report from Joseph Camuso, Rivers & Natural Hazards Manager and Barney Brotherhood, River Engineer

Moved (Carr/Craw)

1. That the report 'Business Case for Flood Mitigation Long Term Plan Projects' by Joseph Camuso, Rivers & Natural Hazards Manager and Barney Brotherhood, River Engineer and dated 15 October 2025, be received.
2. That council approve development of a business case to determine flood risk mitigation options for Dargaville, and Kerikeri/Waipapa and to investigate the current state of the Awanui coastal stop banks and to confirm the design solutions with updated costs for Tauranga Bay.
3. That council approve unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$571,380 to fund development of a business case for flood risk mitigation options to inform future Long Term Plan decisions and to ensure that council is well positioned for future co-funding opportunities.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Appreciation was extended to the Chief Executive Officer and staff for progressing this matter.

Delegations for submissions on resource management reforms and fast track application (Item 7.6)

Report from Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager; Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist

Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Delegations for submissions on resource management reforms and fast track application' by Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager; Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and dated 27 November 2025, be received.
2. That authority is delegated to the Chair of Northland Regional Council plus Councillors Hunt, Blackwell and Macdonald to jointly provide comments on behalf of NRC with regard to the Bream Bay Sand Mining Fast Track application.
3. That authority is delegated to the Chair of Northland Regional Council plus Councillors MacDonald and Carr to jointly approve a submission on behalf of NRC with regard to Resource Management reform.
4. That the delegations set out in resolutions 2 and 3 lapse 24 February 2026 or immediately before the commencement of the first formal council meeting of the 2026 calendar year, whichever is sooner.

Carried

Fast Track Approvals Application - Bream Bay Sand Mining (Item 7.7)

Report from Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager

Moved (Macdonald/Hunt)

1. That the report 'Fast Track Approvals Application - Bream Bay Sand Mining' by Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and dated 25 November 2025, be received.
2. That Northland Regional Council nominate Troy Brockbank as a member of the Expert Panel convened to determine the McCallum Brothers Bream Bay Sand Mining Application lodged under the Fast Track Approvals Act. Should Troy Brockbank be unavailable at the time of convening the expert panel Dr Malcom Green be nominated as an alternate.

Secretarial Note: In accordance with Standing Order 23.4 'Substituted Motion', with the approval of the mover and seconder, the original motion was amended as follows:

Moved (Macdonald/Hunt)

1. That the report 'Fast Track Approvals Application - Bream Bay Sand Mining' by Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and dated 25 November 2025, be received.

2. That Northland Regional Council nominate Troy Brockbank as a member of the Expert Panel convened to determine the McCallum Brothers Bream Bay Sand Mining Application lodged under the Fast Track Approvals Act. Should Troy Brockbank be unavailable at the time of convening the expert panel, or the convenor advises that they are seeking a coastal processes expert, that Dr Malcom Green be nominated.

Carried

Madagascar Ragwort (Item 7.8)

Report from Joanna Barr, Biosecurity Manager Pest Plants and Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity

Moved (Craw/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Madagascar Ragwort' by Joanna Barr, Biosecurity Manager Pest Plants and Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and dated 1 December 2025, be received.
2. That council approves the funding of \$277,000 to progress priority actions and the Economic Impact Analysis and position paper for Madagascar ragwort.

Carried

Secretarial Note: A recent meeting with the Minister of Biosecurity and NRC representatives had impressed the importance of the Clean Vessel Plan and the significant risks associated with Madagascar Ragwort.

Membership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) (Item 7.9)

Report from Jane Hickmott, Governance and Policy Manager

Moved (Crawford/Carr)

1. That the report 'Membership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)' by Jane Hickmott, Governance and Policy Manager and dated 4 December 2025, be received.
2. That council resolves to resign its membership with LGNZ, effective 17 December 2025, and authorises the Chair to give notice of the resignation in writing to Local Government New Zealand.

Secretarial Note: Confirmation was provided that if NRC withdrew its membership from LGNZ mid-term that LGNZ had agreed to reimburse the membership costs on a pro rata basis.

The procedural motion was moved (Craw/Macdonald)

That the item of business being discussed should lie on the table until 1 July 2026 and not be discussed further at this meeting.

Carried

Secretarial Note: In putting the motion the Chair called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands. The result being, councillors Craw, Kitchen, Macdonald, Morunga and Tipene in support of the procedural motion and councillors Blackwell, Carr, Crawford and Hunt against.

Triennial Agreement for the 2025-2028 triennium (Item 7.10)

Report from Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager

Moved (Kitchen/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Triennial Agreement for the 2025-2028 triennium' by Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 8 December 2025, be received.
2. That the Chair be authorised to sign the Triennial Agreement on behalf of council; including the ability to approve any necessary minor drafting, typographical, presentation or otherwise non-material corrections prior to the signing of the document.

Carried

(Councillors Blackwell and Carr voted against the motion)

Secretarial Note: The Mayoral Forum supported openness and transparency and would ensure all elected members were kept informed.

Te Ruarangi Working Party – Appointments (Supplementary Item 7.11)

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

Moved (Arama/Craw)

1. That the report 'Te Ruarangi Working Party - Appointments' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and dated 2 December 2025, be received.
2. That Nyze Manuel (Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa) be appointed as the iwi and hapū Co-Chair for Te Ruarangi.
3. That Juliane Chetham (Patuharakeke Te iwi Trust Board) be appointed as the Te Ruarangi representative to the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.
4. That Janelle Beazley (Te Rūnanga Ā Iwi o Ngāpuhi), Abe Witana (Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa), Ihapera Paniora (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua) and Mahue Greaves (Ngāti Tara) be appointed as the Te Ruarangi representatives to the Natural Resources Working Party.
5. That Jaycee Tipene-Thomas (Ngāti Hine), Kipa Munro (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rehia), Mira Norris (Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust), Niki Conrad (Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri) be appointed as the Te Ruarangi representatives to the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party.
6. That Geraldine Baker (Kahukuraariki Trust Board), Mira Norris (Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust), Abe Witana (Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa) and Rowan Tautari (Te Whakapiko Hapū) be appointed to attend future council workshops related to feedback to the government on local government reform and resource management reform.
7. That the following members form the Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference Review Working Group with the review to focus on ensuring membership reflects the aspirations and needs of iwi and hapū, and on confirming the meeting schedule:
 - Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs: Councillor Morunga and Nyze Manuel (Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa);

- Iwi/hapū representatives: Ihapera Paniora (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua) and Kipa Munro (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rehia); and
- Council representatives: Chair Pita Tipene and Cr Amy Macdonald.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Te Ruarangi Co-Chair, Councillor Morunga, was commended for leading a successful first meeting for the triennium. Appreciation was also extended to all councillors and support staff for their attendance.

CAN Proposal at Lake Taharoa (Item 7.12)

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

Moved (Blackwell/Craw)

1. That the report 'CAN Proposal at Lake Taharoa' by Nicky Fitzgibbon, Biosecurity Manager - Incursions and Response and Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and dated 16 December 2025, be received.
2. That council support the proposal to establish a CAN by BNZ around lake Taharoa.
3. That council approve unbudgeted expenditure of \$205k from the Biosecurity Incursions reserve to pay for additional communications and field officer time at Lake Taharoa.
4. That council support the regulation to be established at a low level and the rule to be that all watercraft be cleaned to a standard acceptable to the Northland Regional Council before entering Kai iwi lakes.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to the Biosecurity Team for being 'quick to respond and coming up with solutions'.*
- *The implementation of the CAN would be funded from the Biosecurity Incursions Reserve. This extended council's presence at Lake Taharoa to the end of June 2026. However, consideration would need to be given to funding options to support a longer term approach.*
- *Staff to provide greater detail to council regarding the \$30k estimated for comms.*
- *Councillor Blackwell was acknowledged for his 'commitment and leadership' over a long time frame to advocate for the protection of the Lakes.*

Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.1)

Report from Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair

Moved (Tipene/Blackwell)

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

Carried

Secretarial Note: The Chief Executive Officer undertook to determine what action, if any, was required on behalf of council in terms of the recent class action law suit lodged against Transpower.

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.2)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Crawford/Morunga)

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 24 November 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- The Clean Vessel Plan was described as 'a really good piece of work' and had been over eight years in the construct. The Plan had been formally delivered to the Biosecurity Minister earlier in the week and the next step was to be presented to Cabinet, seeking approval for consultation.
- The Chief Executive Officer was acknowledged for implementing the modern workspaces project which had transformed the Water Street Office. This project represented a 'significant cultural change' and change management was critical as it was rolled out.
- A programme was being developed whereby council meetings would be conducted around the region, incorporating site visits and the opportunity for councillors to visit community resilience projects.
- The Situation Reports for Yellow Legged Hornet to be circulated to councillors.
- Councillors to be provided an update on the minor wastewater spills reported in Whangarei Harbour.
- The Rivers and Hazards Team were acknowledged for the substantial river and flood works, for example the Kawakawa Deflection Bank, that had 'transpired over the decades'.

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

Moved (Crawford/Craw)

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 - 25 November 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	Progressing a Small-scale Property 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).
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3. That the Independent Advisors be permitted to stay during business with the public excluded. Also council's Property Consultant to be present for confidential Item 9.2.

Carried

Open Meeting

Moved (Crawford/Morunga)

That the council resumes in open meeting.

Carried

Confirming of confidential minutes in open meeting

The confidential resolutions confirmed in open meeting were as follows:

Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 25 November 2025 (Confidential Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Crawford/Macdonald)

That the confidential minutes of the council meeting held on 25 November, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.16pm.